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JUNE/02



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If you answered yes to at least two of these questions—the Other Press wants you! We are currently looking for a staple of contributors for our upcoming political cartoon section of the paper.

If you are interested please email the Opinions Editor, Erin, at opinionsubmit@hotmail.com, or call the OP office at 604 525 3542.

Cartoons can be dropped off at the OP office or submitted via email, fax or ESP.



Contributors:

Tom Mellish, Amanda Aikman,
Malminderjit Singh

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The Other Press is Douglas College's autonomous student newspaper.

The Other Press is run as a collective and is published weekly during the fall and winter semesters, and monthly (as a magazine) during the summer.

We receive our funding from a student levy collected every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue.

The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of student newspapers from across Canada. We adhere to CUP's *Statement of Common Principles and Code of Ethics*—except when it suits us not to.

The Other Press reserves the right to choose what to publish, and will not publish material that is racist, sexist or homophobic.

Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.
Printed by Van Press Printers Ltd.

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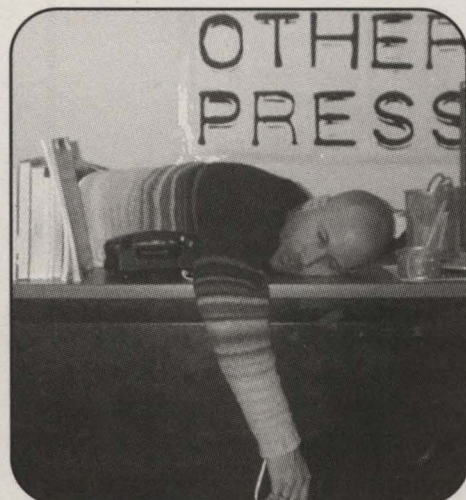
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From The Editor



Editorial
By Adam Honsinger

Okay, so my first issue as the editor of the Other Press proved to be somewhat superficial—the spring clean was more of a renovation, the learning curve more of a stagger—and the result has been a bittersweet debut.

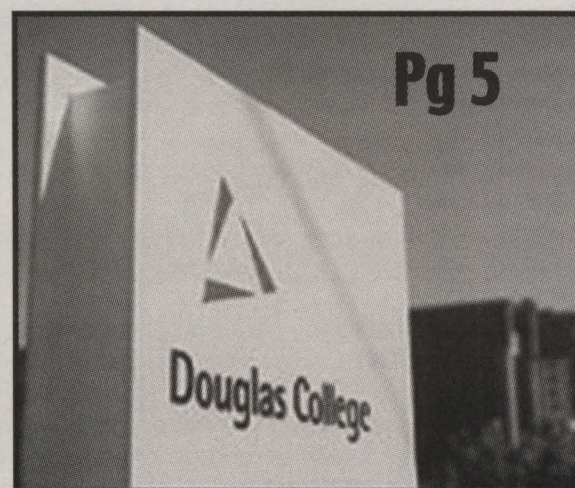
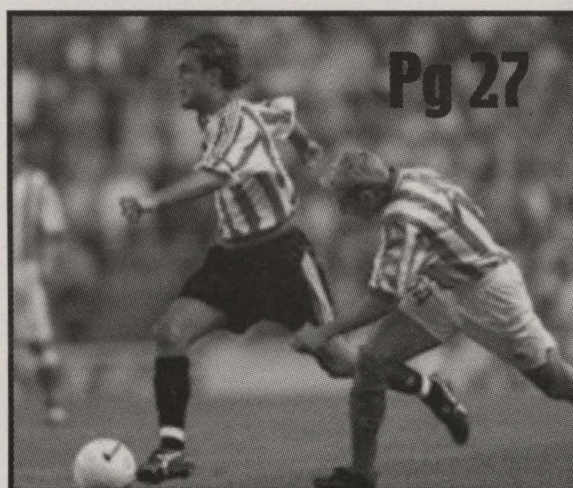
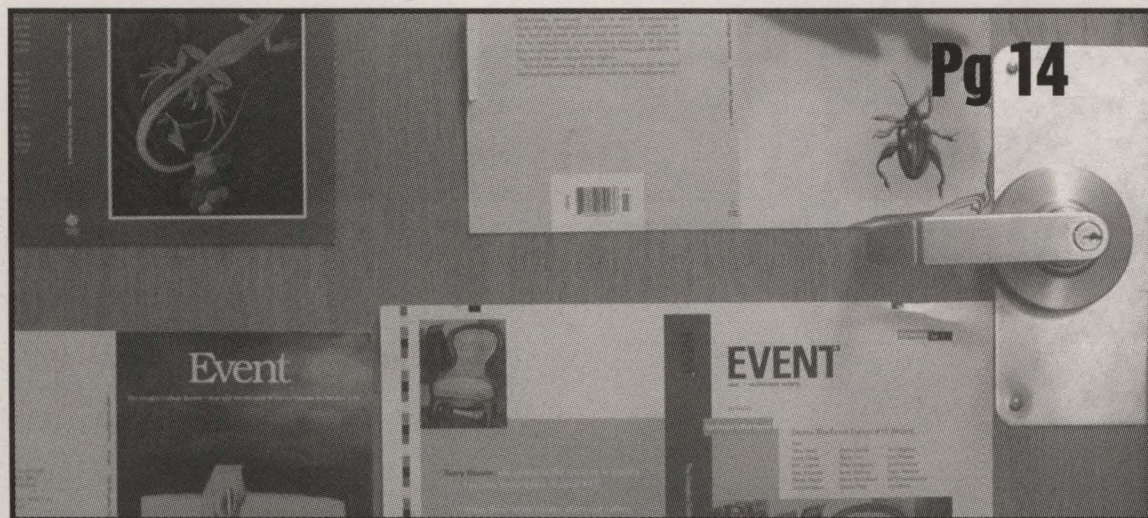
But now the floors are swept, the schedules are carved in granite tablets, I have defined the parameters of my editorial jurisdiction, and alas, we have integrated a much needed business manager into the fray. As a result, I think you will find in this issue, a more accomplished equilibrium between the publishing trinity of aesthetic, content, and typographical integrity.

While the Other Press undergoes a summer face-lift of both style and staff, Douglas College is currently negotiating the Liberal government's slash-and-burn economics. As you may have heard, the new budget will translate into higher tuition fees, departmental and administrative cutbacks, and among other things, the possible closure of the Thomas Haney campus in Maple Ridge. As students, we are almost constantly negotiating budgets ourselves, and therefore, perhaps we should act as consultants regarding the most appropriate ways of allocating funds. As it stands, we are vulnerable in these semesters of self-cultivation to the money focussed perspective of the "Senior Management".

As your student paper, we will try to keep you informed about how these changes manifest specific to you as a student.

The compromise of education is clearly a grave and sensitive issue. And so as Douglas College begins to sweep its own floors, let's hope they do a more competent job than I did in the last issue.

Sincerely, Adam Honsinger, Editor



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Blood Donors Needed



Eileen Velthuis
News Editor

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) has launched a new campaign called "Roll up your sleeves Canada!" in order to attract

160,000 new blood donors across the country this summer.

CBS is a non-profit organization that manages the blood supply in all provinces and territories across Canada, excluding Quebec. They operate more than 10,000 donor clinics annually.

According to CBS's projected patient demand, 245,000 more units of blood need to be collected in Canada between May 14 and September 3 of this year. CBS projects that the demand for blood will keep rising by at least eight per cent per year for the next few years.

CBS reports that only about three per cent of Canadians regularly donate blood. If the 160,000-new-donors target is met, that would make five per cent of Canadians regular donors.

Charles Lester, Maple Ridge Community Development Coordinator for Canadian Blood Services, said that if

CBS doesn't reach these goals, they'll be in extremely short supply by 2005. "We're low all the time ... blood is always needed," he added.

Regular blood donor clinics are held in Maple Ridge every second Friday. The next clinic will be held at the Christian Reformed Church at 20245 Dewdney Trunk Road from 1:30-8p.m. on June 7, and donors are asked to bring identification. The next clinic in Coquitlam will be held June 5 at 1200 Cartier Avenue, from 1:30-8p.m. In New Westminster, the next one will be Friday June 14 from 1-8p.m. at 76 Jamieson Court in the community room.

Anyone interested in donating blood can call 1-888-2DONATE for eligibility or clinic information or to book an appointment. More information can be obtained from the CBS website at www.bloodservices.ca.

New "Buckle Up" Initiative

Eileen Velthuis
News Editor

The "National Road Safety Target 2010" initiative has been put forth by RCMP Traffic Services across the country, in partnership with Transport Canada. The plan? Reduce road deaths and injuries by 30 per cent by the year 2010.

In order to achieve this goal, various avenues are being explored, however, according to RCMP statistics one of the most effective ways to save a life is to buckle up. These statistics state that a person has a 50 per cent chance of surviving a crash if they are wearing a seatbelt and only a 5 per cent chance of surviving if they are relying on just an air bag.

Not wearing a seatbelt can result in an \$86 fine. Recently



Ridge-Meadows RCMP conducted a seatbelt check on Hammond Road and Maple Crescent, and in one and a half hours 22 drivers or passengers received fines. The Ridge-Meadows RCMP and other police forces regularly conduct this type of enforcement.

The RCMP report that a recent survey conducted in the Maple Ridge area found the seatbelt-wearing rate in urban and rural areas of the community to be approximately 78 per cent. In contrast, ICBC statistics for the whole province state that 93 per cent of drivers wear their seatbelts. ICBC also reports that women have a higher seatbelt-wearing rate than men and that seatbelt-wearing rates are lower at night and in rural areas.

The Ridge-Meadows RCMP responded to more than 820 crashes last year alone, and state that many injuries and deaths could be prevented with the proper use of seatbelts. Constable Beckerleg of the Ridge-Meadows Traffic Section said, "Everyone always says it doesn't happen to them—we'll tell them to talk to their friends, relatives, neighbours—it does happen to them."

The new road safety initiative hopes to increase the use of seatbelts to 95 per cent across the board, making Canada the safest country in the world to drive in.

Community Attempts to Prevent Program Closure

Eileen Velthuis
News Editor

On Thursday, May 23, various presentations were made before the Douglas College Board in an attempt to save the Habitat Restoration program.

Douglas College recently announced the possibility that the program would be shut down. Reasons cited included this year's budget shortfall of \$3 million, and a possible \$3.5 million next year. Low enrolment in some of the program's courses, and low graduation rates have also been factors. The Habitat Restoration program has only been running for four years, after opening its doors in 1998.

The program is run exclusively out of the David Lam campus in Coquitlam. City of Coquitlam Councilor and Acting Mayor Diane Thorne spoke on the issue, "It's like cancelling a television program after only two weeks. It's too soon to consider closing the program." She also mentioned that "If we do not have environmental technicians to get us to a position of sustainability we will all be losers down the road. The Habitat Restoration program teaches the skills which we will all need in the future, more than ever."

Habitat Restoration students are required to complete the 30 credits of the program's core courses as well as 30 credits of prerequisite university transfer courses, and a 3-4 month work experience position. No other college or university in BC offers exactly the same applied and technical training, making the Habitat Restoration program unique to Douglas. The program attracts a wide variety of students, from international students to recent highschool graduates and people requiring retraining in their fields, among many others.

A number of the program's 51 currently registered students showed up at the Board meeting with instructors and program coordinator Michael McPhee, who stressed that "It's a relevant program

designed to meet current and future societal needs. The program fills a distinct and needed niche within the post-secondary system, the environmental industry and the community at large."

Mr. McPhee also suggested various options for generating additional revenue, increasing the enrolment numbers and reducing costs in order to keep the program up and running. He also mentioned



New Westminster campus

the possibility of corporate-sponsored seats as something to take a closer look at.

In a letter to the Douglas College Board, Tony Matahlija, president of the Coquitlam River Watershed Society, said that the program has "been a tremendous aid to the environmental movement in Coquitlam." He continued, "The Habitat Restoration program has had students monitor the river, help in its restoration, and also help streamkeeper groups...Their continued support is vital to this community, and to the environment."

Brad Barber of Douglas College's communications department said that a decision on the closure of the program will not be reached until the board votes on June 27.

The Third Degree

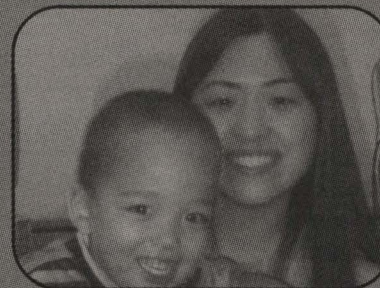
Eileen Velthuis
& **Adam Honsinger**

We asked students at the New Westminster campus what they thought of The Other Press, and what we could do to make it better. Here's what they said:



Hubert, ESL student

"I've seen it maybe once or twice. If the title or front page is interesting I read it. I'd like to see some travel, sports or entertainment on the cover."



**Cindy (with Jacob),
Nursing Student**

"I've never read it. I don't even know where we get it from. I'm just too busy. But it would be nice if every September or January you could run information for new students."



**Trent, New Westminster
Campus Security**

"It's not too bad. Whenever I see a new one come out I usually pick it up. I'd like to see some scantily clad women in the paper."

When Love Goes Bad



Erin Culhane
Opinions Editor

Ah, new love. You know that wonderful feeling you get when you fall in love for the first time, or maybe the second or third? You're oblivious to the rest of the world and you just can't believe how lucky you are. Hmm...I get all warm and fuzzy just thinking about it.

For some, that groovy, new-love feeling lasts for a few months, for others it doesn't wear off for years. And maybe for a few, it lasts forever.

When (or if) it does run out, you might be left with nice, comfortable love. Or maybe the relationship ends, and you just move on.

Regardless of what transpired during the relationship, you should be able to say "It's over," and have it end with that.

I've been thinking a lot about Alicia Jobb, the young woman who was abducted last month and, thankfully, released relatively unharmed. I've been thinking not just about the trauma she has endured the last while, but what she says her relationship with her ex-boyfriend Ernest Meigs was like. Why couldn't she just say, "It's over," and move on with her life?

I'm sure she had that new love feeling with Meigs. She described him as "a nice guy" in the beginning, but during their seven-month relationship, Meigs went from Mr. Nice Guy to a controlling and possessive boyfriend.

In an interview, Jobb said, "I never thought he was capable of doing this." (*The Province*, May 14) While she may not have thought he was capable of atrocious things, she knew better than to stay with him. She admitted it wasn't easy to break free of the relationship and when she finally left, she didn't tell him where she was going.

You know, I think our culture is obsessed with women being nice. Even when placed in a situation that is bad for her, a woman will often prolong it, possibly risking her life. Jobb was smart—she got out. But for many women, it's too embarrassing to admit they are enduring abuse, whether it be physical or emotional. Women aren't really encouraged

to ask for help, or to complain, and there is a certain stigma attached to admitting to being abused or needing help.

So where's the solution? I tend to think it's too late for this generation, but hold out hope for our kids. Children know it's wrong to hit—we tell them often enough. ("Don't hit your sister." "Stop punching your brother.") But do we prepare them for the insidious ways that people can control each other through emotional abuse? We should.

And while I don't want to upset any men, because I know they too suffer from abuse at the hands of their partners, I think we should be concentrating on preparing girls for dealing with abuse.

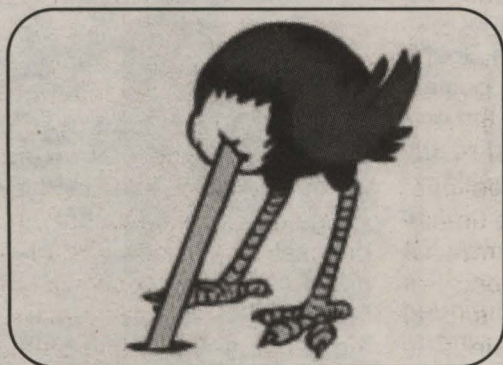
Abuse isn't just a punch in the head. If Prince Charming has a bad day and it makes him feel better to call you ugly, fat or stupid—that's abuse. If he berates you in front of your friends, or makes you feel worthless or tells you what you can and can't do—that's abuse.

We should be encouraging girls to tell anyone who will listen if they are afraid and that it's okay to let the police know if they feel threatened.

We can't undo the past, but we can learn from it. Alicia Jobb will never forget the horrible events that have transpired. Neither should we. And with education, awareness and a "we're not going to take any crap" attitude, maybe we can shape the future.

Science Matters

Time to Pull Our Heads Out of the Sand



David Suzuki

What is the biggest environmental challenge of the 21st century? Global warming? The loss of biodiversity? Resource depletion? Pollution? No one really knows.

Probably the sum of all these. But I'm beginning to think one of the biggest challenges is overcoming the fact that people are tired of all the depressing news about the environment.

The prevailing scientific opinion is that we're quite rapidly depleting many of the resources we depend on for our well-being. We've heard variations on these stories over and over to the point that it's all become quite overwhelming. In fact, many people have stopped paying attention and the media has stopped reporting all but the most frightening predictions.

Pundits and the public often lambaste the media for focussing on bad news. But I think a real problem is not so much the focus on

the negative, but the focus on conflict and controversy—especially in science. So, for example, while 99 per cent of climate scientists think global warming is a serious problem that needs to be addressed, the media love to focus on the few who disagree.

Let me give another example. Earlier this spring a European statistician wrote a book saying that the global environment is healthy and actually improving. The many scientists, environmentalists and citizens who worry about most environmental problems are misguided, he argued. They just don't understand nature like he does.

In spite of the facts that this man is not an

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expert in the fields he is critiquing and has been widely discredited by his peers, he has become a media darling. He has had speaking engagements across North America, front-page stories, editorials and more. Why is he so popular? Simple—he assuages our guilt about ecological problems. Like a travelling tonic salesman, he tours the land telling us what we would prefer to hear, making us feel better about ourselves and the world.

Contrast that with the United Nations Environment Programme's report, "The State of the Environment: Past, Present, Future?" released last week. It's pretty depressing stuff. According to the report, if we follow current trends of putting the "market first," and emphasizing unchecked economic growth, 55 per cent of the world's population will suffer from moderate to severe water shortages by 2032. We'll also lose up to 11,000 species of plants and animals, including one-quarter of all mammals!

The report is very comprehensive, offering a variety of near-future scenarios put together by more than 1,000 scientists from around the world. As Laszlo Pinter, one of the UN report's authors, told the *Globe and Mail*, "This is not just one or two crazy scientists sitting around a table somewhere."

Not surprisingly, it has not exactly piqued the media's interest. Oh, it got its requisite billing as the "depressing environment story of the day." But then it disappeared. Shelved with many other such stories in the "let's not worry about it right now" file. How can we keep doing this? Are we so jaded as a society that we're willing to stick our heads in the sand when it comes to environmental problems, only to pop up when the soothing sounds of a Scandinavian statistician tell us not to worry?

I hate depressing news as much as anyone. Lately, I've found myself searching for good environment news, just to hang on to hope for the future. As Holly Dressel and I

document in our book *Good News for a Change*, there are many examples of individuals, companies, organizations and governments trying to take a sustainable path into the future. Even the latest UN report points out there is still time to change. We just have to stop ignoring the bad news and start taking the steps necessary to avoid the fate of the dire predictions we all hate so much. Maybe then, 20 years from now, the media will come to me looking for a contrarian view—something bad to say about the environment when the evidence shows that it has been improving for years. It's my hope that all I could do then is sit back in my rocking chair, smile and have nothing to say.

To discuss this topic with others, visit the discussion forum at

www.davidsuzuki.org.

The Private Sector

Tom Mellish
OP Contributor

After airplanes were utilized as weapons to level the New York Twin Towers, I was not only aware of the human tragedy, but also of the impact on the world economy, and how the trickle-down effect would reach us eventually. To what degree, I wasn't sure. We've had a shift in our provincial policy; redirection in light of the NDP's inability to handle finances has distracted us from social issues. I have yet to hear the Liberals blaming the recent cuts on terrorism, which would be an obvious, and agreeable explanation. Regardless, the baby is being thrown out with the bath water. To not acknowledge the worth of social programs that symbolize our culture's value system, speaks of an unsettling lack of compassion.

The endemic cuts to education, medicine, and care (of the sick and elderly) suggests that our society is failing. Reducing the very symbols of civilization without balancing the scale, we become those whom we seek to be better than. There is a terrible problem with closing schools, hospitals, and senior's homes. If our fiscal loss is so great that we cannot open new institutions of healing, education, and elderly care then we are surely in the grips—dare I say—of a

depression rather than a recession.

The Liberals are putting money before people. That, unto itself, is the very mandate of the Liberal government. They are economists whose formula suggests that we are their "workforce". The average person on the street is not their concern, save as the method by which the money rolls in. Otherwise they would open new institutions rather than closing them. Money is no option in the eyes of a humanist.

This is Canada, not some third world country. There should be no line-ups at hospitals, schools, or senior's homes. There should be no question regarding these three, and I argue that they are a fundamental right. The mere suggestion that some don't get treatment and some do, just doesn't compute. It is not the reason we are here, not the reason that we came. I beg of your ethos, your pathos, and your logos that there are some things one just doesn't mess with. It reeks of social ineptness, of somehow being unable to prioritize. You need only to be a rational human being to know that one does not close social institutions. They are sacred and define our values as human beings.

However much the individual hopes in their heart to be the priority, that we sacrifice these institutions reveals that this is not the case. Is this wrong? Yes. When we devalue the individual for the private sector, we lose the affection of those who

make up the whole. Disaffection will be our downfall.

I am not a corporation, I am not a company, and I am not a statistic. I come before money. I ask you: Is our society corrupt if it does not value those who build it, who built it, and those who will build it? We are just barely in the process of leaving behind ethno/andro/euro-centrism. Should we look upon the governing body that we elected and demand so great a thing as having priority? Damn right! And we should continue to demand equality for all, regardless of wealth, or status, colour or creed.

One has only to listen to the ground, to the beat of the human heart, with doctors, elders and unions stating that the government is centring on greed rather than people. It is a time when someone you might know can no longer access the care or services he or she used to be able to. We, as a province, have taken a step backwards. I predict that this government will gouge deeper. And to that end they will find themselves at odds. For at what point do people become less valuable than monetary gain? There will be more cuts, and we the people will take the brunt of it.

Thankfully we have options. Through the Recall and Initiative Act, voters in British Columbia can petition for the removal of a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) between elections. Let us hope it doesn't come to that.

Broad's Eye View



J.A.L.
OP Columnist

We meet again. Last time we chatted I may have mentioned that I would be talking about myself and basically anything that catches my fancy. Well, I am also going to discuss my afflictions, namely my diastema. Sound it out D-I-A-S-T-E-M-A. Not exactly a pretty word, but I prefer it to gap-toothed, which is essentially what I am. I have had this extra sliver of space between my two front teeth for as long I can remember.

I recall the first day I became hung-up over it. It was fourth grade and I was pathetically in love with a grotty boy named Scott. We were sitting in the library and he told me he was going to draw a picture of me. Oh, how very romantic. I noticed he was filling one area of the paper with an awful lot of pencil lead. When he was finished he slid it over and there it was. A terrible drawing of me and with a massive gap between my front teeth—I looked like a hillbilly beaver. I responded by ripping it into little shreds and calling him a homo. I didn't really know what homo meant, but it seemed appropriate at the time.

From that day on I developed a bitchy smirk and an aversion to men named Scott. No more open smiles for me. I was convinced my teeth were hideous and would guarantee my virginity throughout high school. Luckily I developed breasts and a fondness for tight shirts. I got dates, I got laid, but I still hated my teeth.

For my high school graduation gift, my parents offered to have my teeth bonded.

My mother made the appointment for the morning after the grad party. Due to circumstances beyond my control I never made it to that appointment—as the grad night included an episode of drunken skinny-dipping gone horribly wrong, but that is for another time. According to my insane mother, my window of opportunity had closed permanently. If I wanted the bonding done I would have to pay for it myself. At eighteen I had alcohol and skanky clothing to buy. I never managed to save up for the dental work.

Over the next ten years, I basically came to terms with my roomy grin. When Twin Peaks made tying a cherry stem with your tongue all the rage—I kicked ass. My space was like an opposable thumb—I could tie a stem with such dexterity I rarely had to pay for a second drink. I've had guys tell me they think it's sexy and I've had women ask me why haven't I fixed that thing in my mouth. Now, men will say anything to score and women are bitchy—so what's a girl to believe. I have wavered back and forth for years, until recently when I decided to check out a new dentist, whom a friend of mine recommended.

As I entered the swanky West End office, I suddenly felt extremely self-conscious. As I was led to the chair to wait, I noticed that the walls were plastered with before and after shots of gums and teeth and lips. I had been duped. My 'friend' obviously had been lying her ass off every time she told me she liked me 'just the way I was.' No matter, I hated it when she said that and it made me feel guilty as I hated many things about her. Now I could add one more thing to the list.

The dentist came in and dove right into my mouth. Not even a hello, how are you. He was only at it for maybe a minute before he sat back and stared intently at me. By this point I was feeling oddly violated and the staring really wasn't helping.

"You're a pretty girl, good symmetry, nice mouth."

He spoke loudly and almost accusingly. I had no idea what to say so I waited.

"But those teeth ruin you. Really they do. Why haven't you considered doing something about this before?"

It was like the fourth grade all over again. I hotly pointed out Madonna, David

Letterman and then for some reason, Ernest Borgnine. He was unmoved and I panicked. I couldn't leave it at Ernest Borgnine, he wasn't exactly renowned for his good looks. I used my trump card.

"What about Lauren Hutton. She refused to close her gap and look at her!"

He sighed and shook his head, "They all throw Lauren Hutton in my face. Are you a gorgeous, blond model who can act?"

Obviously I was not, so I held my tongue.

"Let me put it to you this way. If you had a big hairy mole on your face, would you keep it there, even if Madonna or Ernest Borgnine had one?"

Cheap shot. Of course I wouldn't. If my teeth were as disgusting as a hairy face mole, I wanted it fixed, now. As luck would have it, he just happened to have time to do all the measurements, x-rays and photographs immediately. I numbly followed him to the other room where the 'assessment' would take place. Over the next two hours a troupe of militant dental assistants (don't ever call them nurses—trust me on this one) subjected my mouth to a series of horrific assaults. When it was over the dentist came back in and shoved a sheet of paper in my hands and sent me on my way.

I hardly remember getting home. I sat on the edge of my bed and finally looked at the paper; \$6,500 is what the good dentist decided it would cost to make me presentable. If my jaws hadn't hurt like I'd spent the afternoon on Kingsway performing two-for-one blow-jobs, I would have laughed. Instead I cried. And then, like an asshole I went to the mirror and smiled at myself. I turned that smile left and then right and then face on again. Not exactly a big hairy mole, but definitely not pretty. I thought about \$6,500 and then I went to the closet, got out my nicest bra and snuggest shirt. Bitchy smirk intact, I surveyed the results in the mirror and made my decision. So maybe I can eat corn on the cob through a picket fence and maybe my smile won't inspire men to paint me or write me poetry. But really, I just don't trust a man who can look past a rack and concentrate on a little extra space between a girl's teeth. Cherry anyone?

broadeyevew@hotmail.com

Suburban Graffiti



Dawn-Louise Mcleod
OP Columnist

Wow, my own column, I thought. And I can write about anything.

Then my editor utters the words of doom.

"Just be yourself," he says.

Be myself? Yikes. Anything but that.

Suddenly I have no time to write. I rediscover my dormant powers of procrastination, taking refuge in domestic drudgery. Knitting, cleaning toilets, even tidying my kids' rooms fascinates me. Anything to avoid public revelation.

At the eleventh hour before deadline, the invocation to "Be yourself" is reverberating in my brain like a ghostly mantra from a B grade Disney movie. I retreat to the woods for a solitary hike, hoping to find a way out of my predicament. What the heck, it worked for Trudeau.

But I don't find enlightenment, or even a bear. Unexpectedly, I come to grips with ordinariness—my own.

Thanks to my suburban upbringing, I once considered myself daring, creative, and a

bit weird. During my walk in the woods, I admit to myself that I am really quite ordinary, and possibly boring.

After all, who am I? A middle-class suburbanite with nothing more than a large Visa

"After all, who am I? A middle-class suburbanite with nothing more than a large Visa bill"

bill and a habit of independent and open-minded thinking. Considered by some to be antisocial, this way of thinking is actually a survival strategy: a bear would terrify me, but life alone on a desert island would not (unless the island was inhabited by bears.) I will even go so far to say that a desert island is my idea of Club Med.

Realizing my ordinariness is truly deflating. I'm encouraged by the thought, however, that most people are ordinary and

rather than admit it will go to great lengths to escape their ordinariness.

Which leads me back to the name and the subject of this column.

Like many other words, both "suburban" and "graffiti" imply more than their dictionary definitions and elicit certain labels and preconceptions.

Think "suburban". It means, "Relating to a residential community on the outskirts of a city." Other words not included in that definition are implied, however: sheltered, conventional, staid, provincial, conservative, mediocre, and—yes—ordinary and boring.

Now think "graffiti." Definition: "Drawings or inscriptions made on a wall or other surface." But the images that spring to mind are of inner city gang warfare and spraycan-wielding hooligans.

I see myself as a suburban graffiti artist, willing to escape ordinary by fessing up to it, by taking my attitude to press and say that boring and ordinary have been given a bad rap. Here you'll find a closer look at the ways we trade adventure for the illusion of security, how we exchange safety for self-expression. In "Suburban Graffiti" I'll explore both, whether it be through a housewife hanging out with rapsters, or a performance artist shopping for lawnmowers at Canadian Tire.

Look for forays into the strange and the familiar, the juxtaposition of diverse and perverse elements of ordinary life. Check out the wayward scribbling of a foolhardy mind bent on a quest for accidental enlightenment.

Because here, separate or in tandem, you'll find the suburban and the sublime.

How far will you go to escape your ordinariness? Send your comments to:

subgraf@otherpress.com

The Other Press Opinion Poll

This week's question: Do you agree that the College needs to increase fees in order to balance the budget?

Email your vote and comments to opinion@hotmail.com

What's On Around Town (June 12 – July 17)

Tyler Bradford
Culture Editor

Concerts:

The summer is (finally) starting to heat up and musical delights abound. The big event to check out of course is the 17th annual Vancouver International Jazz Festival, which runs from June 21 to July 1. With tons of free events, including shows in Gastown on the 22 and 23, at the Roundhouse on June 29 and 30, and a Canada Day celebration at Granville Island, there's no reason not to go out and enjoy some great jazz performances.

On the paid concerts side of the festival, the Vogue Theatre offers up some of the festival's biggest shows, including legendary piano minimalist Ahmad Jamal on the 23, guitar deity Bill Frisell (with dobro ace Greg Leitz) June 25 and the return of the Brad Mehldau Trio June 28. As always, the Vancouver East Cultural Centre offers up some of the best in European influenced jazz.

For those into the "New Groove" side of the festival, the concert not-to-be-missed is the amazing double bill of Antibalas Afrobeat Orchestra and Sex Mob, June 26 at the Commodore. Sex Mob's performance last year was the highlight of the festival and this year's teaming with Ninja Tune artists Antibalas who layer funky polyrhythmic beats with monstrous horns and furious lyrics should be heroic. Other "New Groove" highlights include the James Carter Organ Trio at Performance Works on June 25, Bullfrog (featuring Kid Koala) at the Commodore June 27 and the Chicago Underground Quartet at Performance Works on June 30.

If jazz isn't your thing, that's really too bad for you, but there are still lots of gigs going on in the city. If you like hip-hop, June 13 finds Souls of Mischief (of the Hieroglyphics crew) at the Purple Onion. Blackalicious make up for their cancelled show with a make up date on June 17. Mary J. Blige dispels the hateration at GM Place. And of course Crossfade continues on Thursdays at the Purple Onion, including shows by Vitamin D on June 20 and a triple bill of J-Live, People Under the Stairs and Ugly

Duckling on July 18.

Fear not rock and roll disciples, there's music on the horizon for you too. Seattle products Bratmobile team with local country sensations Tennessee Twin for a show at the Pic on June 15. Blues-pop queen Bonnie Raitt plays at the Orpheum on June 16. June 22 finds 20 Miles (John Spence Blues Explosion bassist, Judah Bauer's side project) at the Railway Club. Mellow southern rocker, John Mayer plays a gig at Richards June 24. Meanwhile across town that night, the Coliseum plays host to X-FM's Hullabaloo featuring Papa Roach, Jimmy Eat World, Swollen Members and Theory of a Dead Man. Don't expect a review for that one.

Metal asskickers The Fucking Champs (who are no doubt, rock and roll's next big hype) have plans to tear Richards apart on June 26. I'd be remiss for not mentioning the MOR double bill of the Goo Goo Dolls and Five for Fighting at the QE Theatre on the 28—I suppose everyone sells out for a price (not that there's anything wrong with that).

The Railway Club is the place to be for all your roots-rock needs including Hinterland, Softcore and Parlour Steps on June 27. If that weren't enough local roots action for you, July 5 and 6 are the CD Release party for Carolyn Mark and her Roommates. Yee Haw!

In the blast from the past category, Canadian folk-rock hero Bruce Cockburn plays at the Malkin Bowl in Stanley Park on July 7 with Ron Sexsmith opening. Crowded House and Split Endz frontman Neil Finn plays a gig at the Vogue July 10 in support of his new disc, *One All* and early 90's riot grrls (and Pixies side project) The Breeders have gotten the band together for a tour that includes a stop at the Commodore on July 14. Rumors abound about a Mark Kleiner/Battles double bill at Ms. T's on July 13, but that's just scenester speculation...or is it?

For you kids who like to get down with big name DJs, the city, specifically the Commodore, has that too, as NYC wax spinner, Junior Sanchez will lay down a set of his trademark "dirty house" on June 15, and legendary remixer Ritchie Hawtin spins on July 3, while Grandmaster Flash spins July 5.

Sadly, you punk kids and Birkenstock racers will need to wait until next issue to

hear about the Warped tour and the Folk Festival.

Movies:

Summer blockbusters continue with the June 14 release of *The Bourne Identity* starring uber-hottie Matt Damon as an amnesiac former spy. Based on Robert Ludlum's novel, there should be lots of excitement. Opening the same weekend is *Windtalkers* starring Nicolas Cage in a WWII drama directed by John Woo. Don't get your hopes up kids. Opening June 21 is Steven Spielberg's latest, the sci-fi *Minority Report* starring Tom Cruise. Get your big bag of popcorn ready.

If the big screen blockbuster action isn't your style, check out *Pink Floyd In Wonderland* at the Blinding Light!! June 21 and 22. This latest installment in synched up mischief finds Walt Disney's classic *Alice in Wonderland* synched up with Pink Floyd's *The Wall*. Follow Alice down the rabbit hole and into uncharted territory for an incredible evening of astounding moments of synchronized serendipity and an entirely new way of looking at both the music and the movie. Also at The Blinding Light!! is the Canadian Premiere of Michael Dean's *D.I.Y. OR DIE: How to Survive as an Independent Artist* July 5 and 6. This intriguing film explores the methods and motivations of independent American artists working in different genres and mediums. Profiling a fascinating group of icons and unknowns working in various media including print, film, graphic art, performance art and music, the three-dozen interviewees are mavericks that operate outside of any "studio system", are beholden to no one, and produce influential, quality art regardless of a continuous paycheck.

Also worth checking out is *Cinema Without Borders: The Films of Joris Ivens* at Pacific Cinematheque from June 21–July 1. The Dutch-born Ivens was a key member of European cinema's first avant-garde as well as one of film's most important and influential documentary pioneers.

As always be on the lookout for the best in cool, weird and unique films at The Blinding Light!!, Pacific Cinematheque and Criminal Cinema. Check out: www.blindinglight.com, www.cinematheque.bc.ca and www.criminalcinema.com

continued on page 11

continued from page 10

Theatre:

For those of you who like Shakespeare, *Bard on the Beach* returns to Vanier Park this summer with productions of *Twelfth Night*, *Henry V* and *Cymbeline*. Productions start June 12 and run until the end of the summer.

Running until June 29 at Pacific Theatre is Ron Reed's adaptation of the classic children's fantasy, *A Wrinkle in Time*.

Literary:

Vancouver author Ivan E. Coyote will be speaking June 12 at Milk (455 Abbott) at 8:30 in celebration of the release of his latest book, *One Man's Trash*. Coyote is brilliant at painting beautiful, wry and honest portraits of life, the road and the spirits within.

Comedy:

Robin Williams performs a stand-up comedy routine at the Orpheum June 25 and 26. It features explicit content folks, so keep your kids at home. Since it's already sold-out, that shouldn't be too hard.

As the culture editor for the OP, I am always on the lookout for new writers and new events to check out. If you're interested in writing I can arrange free tickets to movie and theatre premieres as well as free CDs and books for you to review. E-mail me at:

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Epiphany in Vancouver

Amanda Aikman
OP Contributor

The Polys
May 2
The Railway Club

After relentless discussion about the death of the Vancouver music scene, it should come as no surprise that a resurrection waits around the corner.

With a dwindling availability of venues, archaic licensing restraints and a mass exodus of artists to the "promised land" (or Toronto as it is known to the rest of Canada), things look pretty dismal indeed. Luckily there are still a number of local bands who have remained here, slugging it out on the front lines, as it were, fighting for our proverbial "right to party". Ahh rock stars, they truly are the great unsung heroes.

One such valiant ensemble are the Polys, who gave up the opportunity to watch an all-new episode of *Will & Grace* to entertain the crowd at the Railway Club on a Thursday night. Having never heard them prior to this show, my expectations were limited to typical indie rock clichés. Clever lyrics, catchy pop songs, ooh and a girl bass player—serious shades of Superchunk—all sounded like a safe endeavour to me.

As it turned out, such one-off generalizations can be dangerous and completely unfair. The energy, fluidity and depth of this band threw me for a much needed loop. The sumptuously cool voice of guitarist/vocalist Bunny Trin cracked my cynical preconceptions and ground them to dust. Basically—they rocked.

As I emerged from the stairwell of the Railway Club—a lethal combination of tripping feet, curses and lamentations over the next day's early morning shift for which I had volunteered—something miraculous happened to me. The lyrics to one of the Polys' songs (titled "Eyeliner," if my fuzzy memory serves) had wormed its way into my preoccupied, ale-addled brain. Thus prompting the age-old question, "If a rock band performs a song in Vancouver and no one is there to hear it, does it make a sound?" And as I half hummed and mumbled that fantastic Polys song—I knew the answer.

If the Vancouver music scene were truly dead, how could it be that I was standing on Granville Street, massacring the lyrics to a song written by a Vancouver band at a show I had just watched, in a Vancouver club? It was truly an inspirational moment for me; some say that my heart grew three sizes that day.

Perhaps all is not lost after all. With this city putting every obstacle it can dream of in the paths of its musicians, what better time for the citizens of Vancouver to rise up and let it be known that there IS life beyond Techno, that thinking and dancing DON'T have to be mutually exclusive, that we are mad as hell and we're not going to take it anymore.

CD Reviews

Neil Halstead

Tyler Bradford
Culture Editor

Sleeping On Roads
(4AD)

Heartbreak is often a beautiful thing. It isn't at the time of course; you're filled with heartache, sorrow and self-pity. In retrospect, however, after a breakup is typically one of the most productive times for artists. Such is the case with Mojave 3 front-man Neil Halstead's first solo release, *Sleeping On Roads*. Written while couch-surfing after a harsh breakup, the album is gorgeously full of pain, sadness and the hopefulness of starting over.

While his songwriting and lyrical style remains similar to past albums, Halstead has discarded Mojave 3's country-tinged dusty steel guitar and replaced it with cello and muted trumpet. The result is a lush soundscape that has you drifting in mellowed-out euphoria as you contemplate the deeper meaning of Halstead's introspective lyrics.

On "Hi-Lo and Inbetween" Halstead's honey-coated vocals float, offering up beautiful lyrics such as the opening line: "One day it just snowed I guess/and they closed the roads into your heart." What kind of cruel woman could hurt someone so sweet?

Other standout tracks include the bittersweet lullaby "Martha's Mantra (For The Pain)" with its soft strumming and melancholy lyrics and "Driving With Bert" with its beautiful trumpet opening and settles into alternating rhythm, glockenspiel and sing-along chorus.

Oliver Schroer

Tyler Bradford
Culture Editor

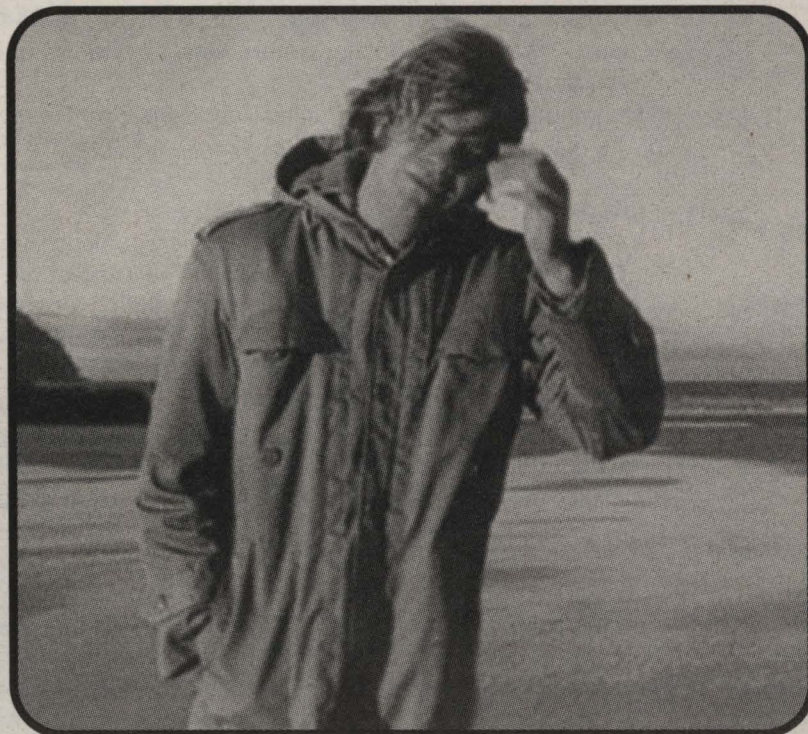
Restless Urban Primitive
(Big Dog Music)

Canadian fiddler/composer/producer Oliver Schroer has been nominated for a Juno in the past. His recent release, *Restless Urban Primitive*, won't be nominated for anything, except for perhaps worst CD of the year.

This 20-track train wreck is a self-serving piece of artistic indulgence, which hides itself as a "journey—both interior and exterior." It doesn't matter what you veil this shit with, it's painful to the ears. The CD opens with tracks that sound like Schroer is busy tuning his fiddle and the droning sounds continue for the rest of the CD.

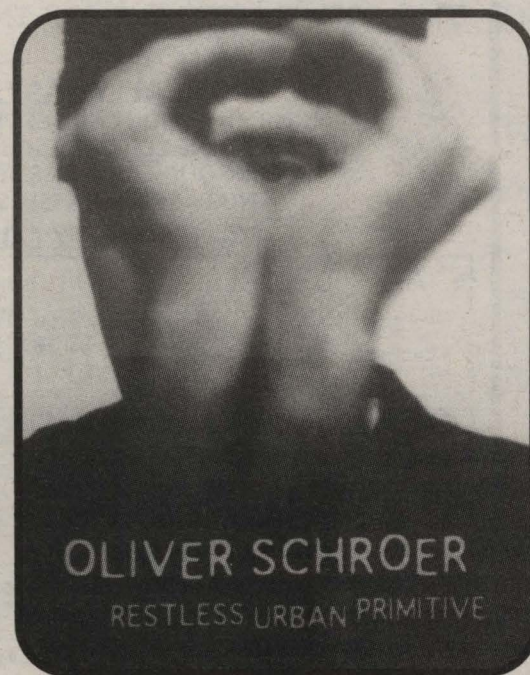
While artistic vision is important, artists need to realize that if they are releasing the CD as a commercial product, it needs to have some appeal outside their attic or basement. Schroer apparently doesn't understand this by releasing a CD only his mother could love.

Oliver Schroer will be appearing at this year's Vancouver Folk Festival. You'll be able to tell by the people running away covering their ears.



Neil on the beach.

While Neil Halstead has long been considered a major song writing talent, due to his output as the lynchpin of Mojave 3 and Slowdive, but with *Sleeping On Roads* he takes a further step-up demonstrating his talent for lyrics, vocals and guitar as much as songcraft and arrangement.



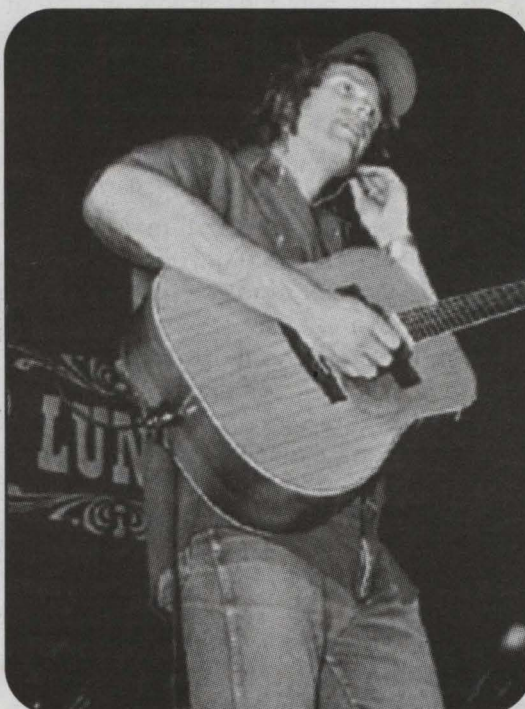
The "Restless Urban Primitive" himself.

Dreaming of Guitar Lessons

Amanda Rikman
OP Contributor

Morrissey once sang, "I thought that if you had an acoustic guitar, that it meant that you were a protest singer". These days it would mean that you were an Alt-Country singer. Whether they are saddled with the country label or pegged as folk or roots, the results are truly impressive and there is certainly nothing "Alt" about the Corb Lund Band's brand of country music. Playing to an over-capacity crowd, suspiciously stocked with Albertans, the band chose the Railway Club in Vancouver to launch the release of their new CD, *Five Dollar Bill*, on May 17th.

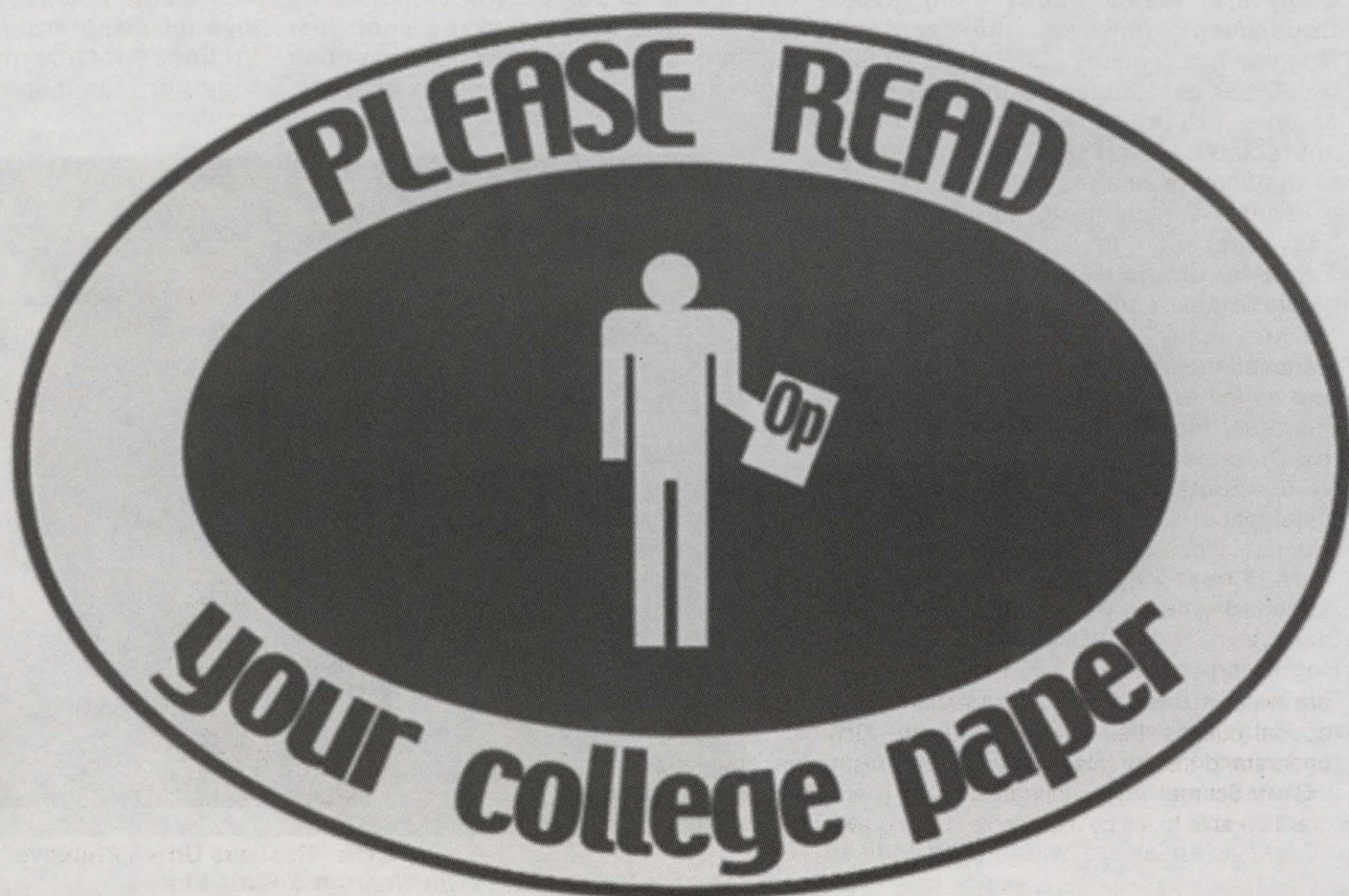
The evening's festivities got underway with the help of openers Anselmo and Old Reliable. The former was an inconsequential blur of half-baked love songs, but to be fair I may have stopped paying attention when I saw the ponytail of the lead singer. Old Reliable was a definite improvement, offering up a string of country-fried dreamscapes a la Giant Sand. Two opening bands is a lot to ask of any crowd though, especially one with a high alcohol/cowboy hat ratio, and the



Corb Lund on stage.

natives were beginning to get a bit restless as the evening wore on.

It was past midnight when former Smalls bass player, Corb Lund, and his band finally took the stage. Opening with the title track, "Five Dollar Bill", a full on country foot stomper, the tone was set for the evening. As the "Yee Haws" bounced off of the prominently displayed Albertan flag and Edmonton Oilers banner, the band progressed into the Spanish-tinged songs of their *Unforgiving Mistress* album and the diverse yet well received covers "Okee from Muskogee" and "These boots were made for walking". Eeking out my fraction of floor space in the sweaty overcrowded club, these vast yet intimate songs had me thinking ahead to an impending road trip. As sparse as they are lush, as dramatic as they are simple, as country as they are western these are the kinds of inspiring songs that make you wish you had taken guitar instead of German lessons.



In Appreciation of Belletristic Endeavors

Event Magazine's 30-year retrospective ironically coincides with a 50 per cent cut to its budget



**Adam Honsinger
Editor**

Literary journals play an integral role in the culture of Canadian literature and amplify the profiles of the academic institutions that they often reside in. Douglas College is very fortunate to have the literary quarterly *Event* magazine publishing out of the Language, Literature, and Performing Arts Department. However, the fact that Douglas has recently cut *Event's* budget by 50 per cent suggests that the value of this affiliation may not be fully appreciated. Cathy Stonehouse, editor of *Event* magazine feels that periodicals present a consistent forum where anybody can send in work which makes *Event* a tangible link in the chain between new and established writers—"In fact many Canadian authors have launched their careers in literary journals. And as for our affiliation with the college, this has far reaching implications as the Douglas logo is on every copy, and we distribute internationally."

On Friday May 31 *Event* magazine launched volume 31/1 to commemorate 30 years of literary publishing. Beginning back in 1971 with David Evanier as editor, *Event* has proven in its long history to be a unique and respected part of the local and national literary community.

Event is an award winning periodical

that publishes fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction three times a year and has been affiliated with the writing careers of such celebrated authors as Carol Shields, Lorna Crozier, Anne Michaels, and Nino Ricci, to name but a few. "*Event* is known for its quality and broad pallet while maintaining a quiet consistency throughout the years, and you cannot replace that," says Stonehouse, "And that is what this retrospective reflects."

The evening's readings held in the Segal Centre at SFU Harbour Centre were infused with wine, beer, flowers, and jazz—exquisitely performed by the Blair Fisher Trio. The well-attended launch, which included eclectic readings by seven authors whose work appears in the retrospective, was MC'd by long time contributor Tom Wayman. Wayman sincerely reflected on the importance of *Event* magazine in the Canadian literary cosmology. Wayman underlined the value of literary journals from a writer's perspective emphasizing how important it is to be, not just published, but rejected—a response that can act as a barometer of sorts,

prompting the further development and fine tuning of a story. Canadian literary journals make for, not only excellent reading, but as Wayman pointed out, an honourable challenge for writers to meet the varied expectations of journal editors across the country.

Acceptance and rejection is a serious and thorough affair, as submissions generally go through a rigorous process. Stonehouse notes in the special issue's editorial, "litmags represent the rough-hewn rock face where precious cultural minerals first come to light...a forum in which writers engage in necessary dialogue." A dialogue that must survive a first reader, a genre editor, and onward to a fiction committee, and then a final vote. If a short, story for example, makes it through the many stages of this critique, then it is probably a pretty damn good piece of writing.

The publishing process is often run by a skeletal staff, and the dedicated work of several volunteers. It is a labour of love for art, literature and the dazzling brilliance of words carefully strung together to inspire, entertain, and



George McWhirter, Calvin Wharton & Carla Elm

continued on page 15

continued from page 14

stimulate the imagination. For those behind the scenes, this is a somewhat thankless endeavour where accomplishment is relegated to the masthead.

Friday night's launch saw the literary quality of *Event* transcend the page with readings by Cynthia Flood, Annabel Lyon, George McWhirter, Bud Osborn, Madeleine Thien, Betsy Warland, and Tom Wayman—a mixture of poetry, fiction and personal essay that reflected the diverse quality of *Event's* publishing tradition. Despite the success of the launch, the future of this tradition is now in question.

Literary magazines are commonly subsidized by a combination of government grants and funding by affiliated academic institutions. Here at Douglas College, like all post secondary institutions in BC, a three-year budget freeze has induced a reassessment and reduction of programs and services. Although *Event* has received support from the College Foundation, unfortunately, "senior management" is not convinced that supporting a literary magazine is valuable, relative not only to students, but to the profile and marketability of the college itself. With thriving and well respected creative writing, English, and professional writing programs here at Douglas, one can easily imagine how in terms of practicums and volunteer opportunities, *Event* is a great resource to not only the department, but the whole school.

But true to Canadian Politics, the depth and richness of creative enterprise is often the first thing to go when up against money focussed perspectives. The budget cutbacks have hit *Event* hard and the resulting 50 per cent cut in funding is the product of a five-year cost recovery plan, which would eventually like to see *Event* operating as a financially independent business. *Event* is now left to seek out alternative funding through donations strategies and corporate sponsorship. "It's a wake up call," says Stonehouse, "we have got to make efforts to be more visible to the people in the college." How a staff of two manage to produce a journal of *Event's* quality is one thing, but now they also have to divert their

efforts towards funding and marketing.

We are fortunate to have *Event* publishing out of Douglas College as it not only historically represents some of Douglas College's own talent, (*Event* has published and been managed by a number of Instructors from Douglas) but also BC, Canada, and indeed international submissions. Calvin Wharton, writer, CRWR instructor, and editor of

"Event is in my opinion, a practical metaphor of larger things—a relatively untapped resource that could potentially be integrated to enhance Douglas College's profile to a national level."

Event from 1996–2001 says, "*Event* offers students here at the college a window into the publishing business, and connects the college to the rest of the country because *Event* has a national profile."—By virtue of publication, *Event* has even blessed Douglas College with an association to Charles Bukowski and Pablo Neruda. Therefore, the continued success of *Event* and literary journals in general, are a local and global treasure—a symbol that we all should acknowledge and consider as students, faculty, and administration here at Douglas College.

The special issue of *Event*, is as

usual, beautifully put together and is representative of the countless award winning stories that have appeared between *Event's* covers over the years. Ironically, the timeliness of *Event's* thirty years of success is juxtaposed by these recent budget cutbacks which will ultimately challenge the journal's immediate future, raising the question: Will there be another thirty years?

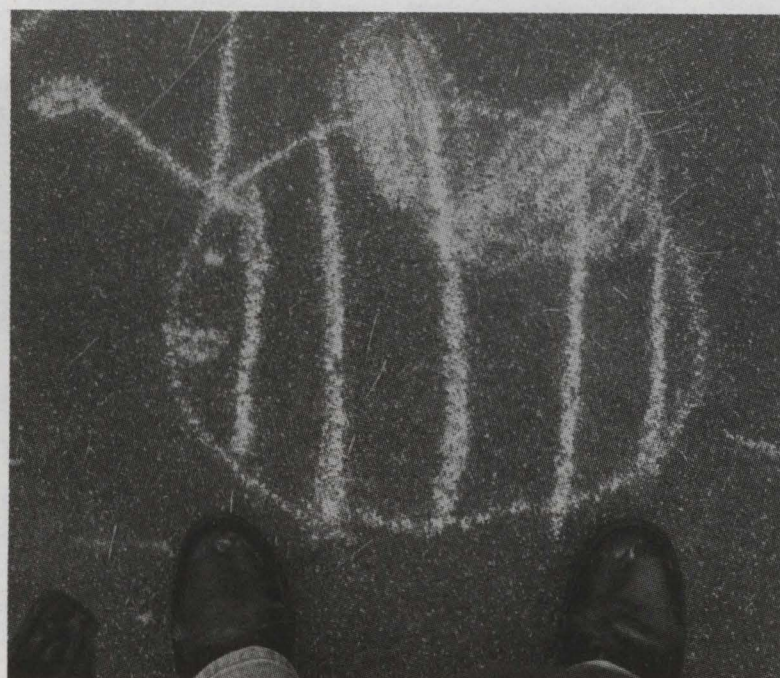
Language and communication are the fabric of society and higher education, and whether you are a reader or a writer, this business of obsessing-over, celebrating and communicating with words is a fantastic and enriching occupation. *Event* represents a forum for those who make this fabric colourful.

As a student here at Douglas, the opportunity to work with *Event* has significantly enriched my experience. For me, the advantages of this affiliation to the college appear to be not only poorly advertised, but poorly appreciated. *Event* is in my opinion, a practical metaphor of larger things—a relatively untapped resource that could potentially be integrated to enhance Douglas College's profile to a national level. And the reality of this metaphor is that it relies on dedicated staff, quality writers, passionate readers and in the end...funding.



Calvin Wharton, Cathy Stonehouse & Ian Cockfield

Photo(graphic)



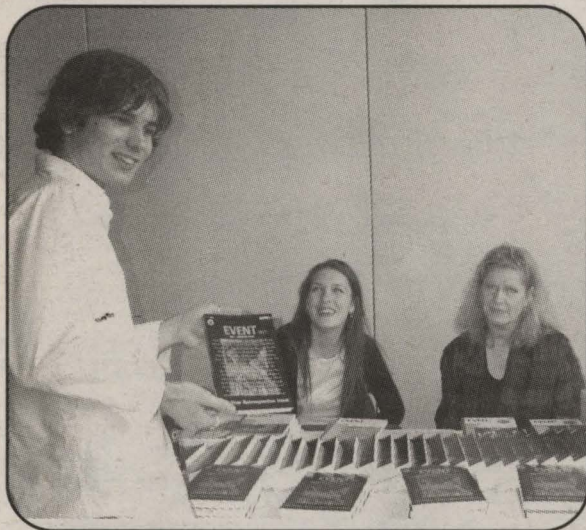
Photos by Adam Honsinger

Photo(graphic)



Classic 57' by Angele Sitybelle

Event Turns 30



Tyler, Kerry & Karen

Tyler Bradford
Culture Editor

Douglas College's very own *Event* magazine recently turned 30 and as part of the celebration held a launch party for its 31/1 issue, a 30-year retrospective which is filled with highlights from the award winning magazine's first three decades.

For those not familiar with *Event*, the literary

magazine focuses on fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, notes on writing and reviews. Its contributors are primarily unsolicited, which allows for writers both new and established to have access to an outlet for their work to be published and most importantly be seen. Many of *Event's* contributing writers have gone on to be award winning authors, including Kevin Armstrong whose story, 'The Cane Field' (which was first published in *Event*) recently won the prestigious 2001 Writer's Trust/McClelland & Stewart Journey Prize.

The launch party of the retrospective issue, held on May 31, was moderately successful, filling a large room of roughly 120 people at SFU's Harbour Centre to standing room only. While the attendance was encouraging and the material from which the reader's drew was strong (based mostly on selections from the retrospective issue), the actual readings were less than spectacular. With the exception of MC Tom Wayman, who closed out the night with two crowd-pleasing comical poems, and author Annabel Lyon, who seemed to become the character from her selection, "Fishes", none of the other authors could seem to draw themselves (or their audience) into their own work.

Thankfully the retrospective issue itself is far

more engaging. While some of the authors at the launch party couldn't create a connection with their audience, all of the authors gracing the pages of the retrospective issue make strong connections with their readers in their written work. The outstanding works featured in the retrospective issue all have previously graced the pages of *Event* before and represent an overview of the magazine's storied and award-winning past. Some of the more famous names included amongst the authors who have written for *Event* and are represented here are Charles Bukowski (who contributes two poems including one that was published in *Event's* first year of publication), George Elliot Clarke (who contributes a piece in the "Notes on Writing" section) and Carol Shields (who's contribution "The Question of Fiction" ponders some of the deeper meanings of why writers write). With creative and innovative selections in poetry, fiction and non-fiction throughout *Event's* 30-year retrospective issue is sure to have something for any fan of literary work.

For more info on *Event*, check out there web-site: <http://event.douglas.bc.ca/> and to purchase a copy of the 30-year retrospective issue swing by the Douglas Bookstore, where issues sell for \$12. A modest price for a collection of work of such great magnitude.

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Wanted

Democracy Watch: The Active Activist

Sven Bellamy
Features Editor

"In a Democracy, politics are too important to be left to politicians. All citizens must strive to understand politics, for if they do not, then politicians are liable to corner them with disastrous results for all."—Macdonald Burbidge, 1990

A democracy cannot exist without active participation of its citizens. Each time a crowd of activists gather to express concern, discontent, or support for a cause; each time citizens write a letter, or make a telephone call to an elected official disclosing concern or expressing discontent, democracy is being exercised.

One Person Can Make a Difference

In the 60's Ralph Nader, a Princeton law graduate, began to write a book about lack of government regulation regarding automobile safety. He faced tremendous opposition from General Motors, one of the largest corporations in the world at that time, to the extent where women were hired to entrap Nader in an episode of moral disrepute and blackmail. However, a journalist friend broke the story in *The New Republic*, soliciting attention from the US senate, ultimately forcing an apology from the president of GM.

This single incident launched automobile safety into the public centre stage and drove Nader's book *Unsafe at Any Speed* to become a national bestseller in the States. It also did something else. The Nader case showed that a single determined person, with a focused goal and intelligent ambition, is able to make a difference, even if taking on a corporate giant.

The formation of watchdog groups, whether citizen advocate groups or student activist groups, serve to strengthen the voice of people. The first of Nader's student advocate groups was formed in 1968. The group of seven student lawyers began investigating the American Federal Trade Commission, an organization that was supposed to protect consumers from defective products, fraudulent business practices and deceptive advertising. The student crusaders released a report revealing an agency, "fat with cronyism, torpid through inbreeding,

unusual even for Washington, manipulated by commercial predators, impervious to governmental and public monitors." The report was so effective that U.S. senators began to take notice, ultimately leading to the revamping of the FTC headquarters, and internal management structures.

In the years that followed, inspired by the success of the FTC report, student activists flocked to work for Nader. These groups began producing reports that were explosive and revealing.



Washington Post journalist William Greider picked up the story and likened the ad hoc groups to intellectual S.W.A.T. teams naming them, "Nader's Raiders." By the second summer two hundred students were selected from a list of 30,000 applicants inspiring Nader to form a permanent establishment. One Harvard professor was quoted by a reporter as saying, "I think one third of Harvard Law School applied."

By the summer of 1970 Nader founded the Center for Responsive Law and Nader's Raiders began turning out reports on health hazards caused by air pollution, lax response of the Food and Drug Administration over the food industry, and the effects of DDT spraying.

One reason why the Nader reports were so effective was that mainstream journalism seemed locked in a legacy left over from the Eisenhower "silent" generation. Investigative reporting wasn't practiced to any extent at most

daily newspapers and few legislators cared to look at the performance of federal agencies from a citizen's perspective. By providing names and detailed documentation the Nader study groups made for hot copy. The spectacle of greenhorn students providing example after example of government footdragging, special interest collusion, and corporate malfeasance made the reports compelling and intriguing.

Nader had very little capital to pay for the growing groups. He paid them instead by giving them their own bylines, participating in their own press conferences, providing the student researchers opportunities to develop their own reputations and expertise. Mark Green, one of Nader's first protégés has remarked, "Ralph replicated himself through his own selflessness—he allowed new leaders to be born."

Nader introduced the reports he sponsored as "exemplary acts of citizenship designed to inspire others to do the same." For a generation who consciously wanted their peers to care about who they were, to care about their country, and care about the world they lived in, Nader had provided a means through The Centre for Responsive Law. Although Ralph Nader was not the founder of consumer watchdog movements, he contributed greatly towards getting people involved, making people concerned, and he did something unique. While the majority of student activists were protesting the war in Vietnam, or fighting for ethnic civil rights, Nader had found a niche focusing on the subtle injustices woven into American economy and law.

Some Canadian Democracy Watchdogs

Within Canada, especially within the scope of the past few years, advocate groups for democracy and human rights have been recruiting in full force. Never in the history of the world has it been more crucial to protect the individual's rights, to speak one's beliefs, to make a stand and say what

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one believes to be right or wrong, to participate in making decisions that have consequences which reach beyond the confines of our own living rooms, communities, and countries. Several groups within Canada offer information that is not readily available through mainstream sources. These advocate groups are founded on the basic principles that Canadians should have access to government and business activities, that government and business should be accountable for their activities, that Canadians should have access to mechanisms of recourse against government and business waste, abuse, and misrepresentation—along with the right of Canadians to gather as citizens, consumers, and taxpayers to have meaningful participation and representation in the Canadian political system.

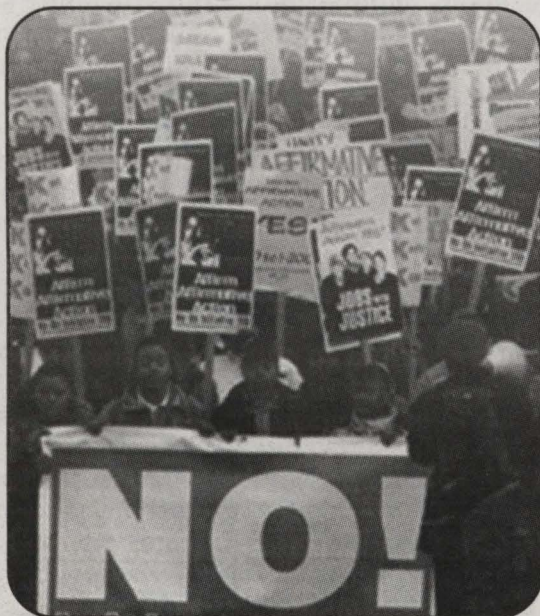
Democracy Watch On-line

www.dwatch.ca/

Democracy Watch was started in 1993 and has worked to empower Canadian consumers to hold government and business organizations accountable for decisions and practices. The site offers a wealth of easy to follow links to government contact information, government Web-sites and other citizen activist and lobbyist groups. Another link accesses any number of campaigns and action alerts, such as a government ethics campaign, and voter's rights campaign.

Canadians for Direct Democracy

www.npsnet.com/cdd/



The catch phrase for this Web-site is: "Direct Democracy is to the 21st century what the magna carta was to the 13th century."

The right of citizens to be directly involved in the country's decision-making process by exercising the right to hold a vote on any issue, essentially giving every citizen veto power. The belief that democracy should be tailored to the needs of individual communities is hinted at, but the links to articles on the site do not explore this idea fully. There are links to other sites and the majority of the links are centred locally in British Columbia providing examples of how actively participating in the community can make a difference.

Rights & Democracy

www.ichrdd.ca/flash.html

This is a simple, yet nicely done international Web-site calling for international support for women's rights, democratic elections in third world countries and support for the building of infrastructure in countries of need. There are job postings and descriptions for anyone interested in helping out around the world. The site is offered in English, French, and Spanish, and can take some time to appreciate all of the compiled information.

Global Democracy Ottawa

www.gdo.ca/index.html

This Web-site is for the active activist. It lists a national list of protest activities and articles relating to past, current, and upcoming events in Canada. A big disadvantage to local activists is most of the meetings advertised in this site are staged for

an Ontario audience. It is a very current site and is presently campaigning for people who are interested in participating at staged protests during the June 21 to 28 G8 Summit at Kananaskis National Park in Alberta. The content of this site is geared directly for the activist who wishes to get involved, and a major focus is on people's right to protest. Although an interesting and well laid out site, the religious fervour saps a lot of energy.

World History of Democracy

www.nipissingu.ca/departments/history/muhlberger/histdem/#imlink

A Web-site geared more toward an academic audience is set up in an older web format where the user can either scroll down the page, or click on one of five subheadings, speeding the reader to the appropriate section. Unfortunately there are no links back to the top of the page, leaving the reader to scroll back up. Despite the minor navigation issue, the information is plentiful and diverse. As the site is geared towards the history of democracy, there are subjects spanning the breadth of human existence and diversity. Anyone interested in democratic systems ranging from American Aboriginal cultures, and Southern Asian democracies to the more Western form of Mediterranean democracy, may very well find this site enjoyable.

Make a Stand

Most people are really keen on taking a stand when their own personal space is being invaded. However, in the new world order, it becomes imperative to step outside of our own living rooms, share with our neighbours, unite with those who have common goals and aspirations. As individuals and as members in a rapidly changing global community we must keep ourselves informed, in the proverbial loop, and develop discerning and critical perspectives when observing the actions of governments, banks and corporations. As Ralph Nader has shown, one person can make a difference. As citizens, it is up to each of us to avoid being a lamb. We cannot afford to let banks, corporations, or government dictate the spin of the planet. As Macdonald Burbidge has stated: letting politicians rule spells disaster for all.

Defending The Nation

The Native Youth Movement unites Native youth at a time when their futures are most at stake

John Kennedy, The SFU Peak

(CUP) Meet Derek Edenshaw. Besides being Native\Haida and Cree to be exact—he's a father, a journalist, a poet and a well-established local musician. Most importantly, however, he's a well-respected leader of the Vancouver chapter of the Native Youth Movement (NYM).

At 21 years old, he's seen and done more than most people have by that age. The fact that he now leads such a normal life, however, makes him a bit of an anomaly.

The conditions under which so many First Nation youth in Canada are raised far too often prevent First Nation adults from leading the kinds of lives the majority of Canadians take for granted. Edenshaw knows this; he's already spent two years of his life in jail.

As an off-reserve Native—the most common kind—one of the more noticeable things about Derek is his absolute dedication to the self-empowerment of all First Nations people.

"Reserves? Get off the reserves!" he says, "As long as Indian people are sitting on these little pots of land—what they'd call a rancho down in California, a place where you keep animals—as long as Indians are staying on this land, these little reserves, we're fucked."

His advice?

"Get off them and go to your territories, it's the only logical thing to do."

Edenshaw, along with many other Natives in NYM who have overcome overwhelming odds, spends most of his time fighting for a better future for First Nations youth.

The Native Youth Movement, as the name suggests, brings Native youth from British Columbia and the rest of Canada together to raise the political consciousness of Native youth, and to fight for Native self-determination and preservation of heritage. Since early 2000, five new

NYM chapters have been formed in both Canada and the United States, and according to Edenshaw, five more will be formed in B.C. within the next few months.

Born in Winnipeg, the NYM came into being as a way for Native youth to band together in support amongst extreme social conditions: poverty, substance abuse and violent gangs. The cultural



Derek Edenshaw

landscape and social geography of Winnipeg also played a significant role in the beginning of such a movement.

"Winnipeg has the highest population of Native people per capita, for a city that's not reserve," explains Edenshaw.

He sees the social unrest among Winnipeg's Natives—and accompanying gang problems, alcoholism, and abuse—combined with their strength in numbers, as the catalyst for the creation of the NYM.

"It started off as a way to mobilise, to give a bit of a steam back to these hurting kids."

The organization gained national appeal after a 1995 conference on Native issues in Ottawa called Sacred Assembly and put on by the Assembly of First Nations, in which young Natives felt they were being ignored by their community leaders.

"A lot of the Native organisations were talking 'Youth this, youth this, youth that,' for our future, but there was no youth

participation," said Edenshaw.

According to Edenshaw, these blind spots in the Assembly highlighted the need for a platform in which Native youth could address important issues themselves.

The Vancouver chapter of NYM was born shortly after, and it began a gigantic recruiting spree.

"Every young Native kid in Vancouver was down," says Edenshaw. "[They were all] somewhat involved, somewhere."

The NYM has made youth involvement in the treaty process a number one priority.

British Columbia is the one province where treaties were never signed at the time of European colonization. Until the early 1990s, the government hadn't even begun the process of addressing the unceded territory, which comprises most of today's British Columbia. Since then, only the Nisga's treaty has been ratified, while the majority of existing treaty negotiations are in the late stages of the six-stage process.

The NYM, however, is opposed to the B.C. government's approach to treaty negotiations—as much with the B.C. Liberals' as they were with the NDP's.

"The NYM have declared themselves the official opposition to the B.C. Treaty Commission (BCTC), the B.C. Treaty process," says Edenshaw.

"We called it a fraudulent process [in the early 1990s when it began] and to this day we call it a fraudulent process."

The NYM's argument revolves around the fact that the chief and council of every band—funded by the Department of Indian Affairs (DIA)—while elected, seldom represent the true wishes of the grassroots constituents, and in most cases, end up having to "sell out" traditional Native land to the wishes of the government.

"The whole treaty process is a big scam," says Honey Desjarlais, one of the founding members of NYM Vancouver. According to her, while the sentiment of average band members is in strong favour of compensation for unceded land, this gets lost when

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chief and council sit down for negotiations with the BCTC.

"It's a colonial system that was never ours, which uses divide and conquer tactics," she says.

The B.C. Supreme Court decided in 1997's Delgamuukw decision that aboriginal title—ownership of land—can be established with any proof of existence prior to the arrival of European settlers.

"The decision confirmed that aboriginal title does exist in British Columbia, that it's a right to the land itself—not just the right to hunt, fish or gather—and that when dealing with Crown land, the government must consult with and may have to compensate First Nations whose rights may be affected," reads the BCTC Web site.

Despite the Court's ruling, Edenshaw says, the BCTC consistently approaches treaty negotiations with the intent to drastically undermine demands put forward by each individual band, in terms of money, resources and land.

Facing the endless resources of the government, chief and council more often than not succumb.

As well, Edenshaw feels, any money negotiated in the process—if it makes it past the band office—is often funneled into social and community programs which don't directly benefit the community.

According to Edenshaw, a recent strategy the B.C. government has adopted has been to sell traditional Native land before it gets negotiated away.

The British Columbia Assets and Lands Corporation (BCAL) is the company the government uses to sell Crown land. In places such as Skwelkwel'welt (Sun Peaks) and Sutikalh (Melvin Creek), traditional land was sold to ski resort developers while negotiations were still unresolved.

"BCAL are basically the official bootleggers of Native territories for the B.C. government," says Edenshaw.

This unilateral action from the government served as the impetus for several recent NYM occupations. In spring 2001, the Sun Peaks ski resort in Kamloops was occupied, giving birth to the Secwepemc chapter of the NYM. BCAL itself has also been a target, with both its Victoria and

Kamloops offices occupied this summer.

Edenshaw justifies NYM actions in the context of the government's decisions to sell disputed land.

"Legally, under their own laws, they're breaking their own laws. Until these land claim issues are dealt with, they're going to continue to do this. And there's a bigger push right now because a lot of the land claims are coming to an end."

"They'll use their language, and they'll use their laws and their loopholes to defend it, but it's just wrong, basically."

The B.C. Liberals' plans to put the treaty process itself up to referendum is also

"If we were to go out and block a road in all camouflage, people are going to think [we are] 'fucking terrorists.'"

contested by NYM members.

"With the media and the stance of the government and the way that people are in general in B.C., there's a lot of redneck, racist people out there," says Edenshaw. "And with the referendum, you're giving the power to that racist majority to outvote the minority."

Edenshaw feels that the attacks on the U.S. and the subsequent anti-terrorism legislation have radically altered the political landscape for activist organizations such as NYM. As is now the case with most activist groups, he feels there has been a self-imposed and large-scale abandonment of long-held beliefs.

"If we were to go out and block a road in all camouflage, people are going to think 'fucking terrorists.' [The war on terrorism] changes things in a gigantic way. One of the big things it changes is that instead of [the NYM] being the really good, healthy organisation that we are, helping out the community, they're gonna now be able to

paint a picture why we're so bad, a defamation campaign.

"We have to watch what we write, we have to watch what we say publicly. Basically, they've got a lot of leverage on us now, a ton of leverage they shouldn't have."

As the NYM grows and becomes a stronger voice for Native youth, so do their tactics and their focus. Already, established leaders like NYM member Honey Desjarlais are studying tribal law as a potential means of representing Natives in future negotiations with the Canadian government.

But according to Edenshaw, the political branch of the movement isn't the only one that's growing. Aspects of the organization that foster cultural expression among Native youth are also gaining momentum.

"[NYM is giving youth] that push for big self-esteem; we're pushing for young people to do what they want, and to be proud of themselves.

"We've got people who are filmmakers, writers. We've got [our own] magazine, and we've got tons of independent young filmmakers with cameras running around everywhere now," says Edenshaw.

While the hip-hop, the writing and the filmmaking make serious activism enjoyable for youth, Edenshaw maintains that given the serious issues at hand, all work is approached in a political context.

"The broader picture," says Edenshaw, "is that there are so many young Native people out there, so many young people are fucked. Why are they fucked? Well, it's really obvious."

"Our people got colonised, raped, murdered, killed. They got raped again, raped again and raped again. It's really obvious why we would be hurting. So the broader picture is there are now thousands and thousands of kids who are more proud of who they are, whereas they could have been committing suicide.

"[First Nations] do have the highest rates of suicide," he says. "We do have the highest rates of prostitution and drug-use. With Native people, when it comes to statistics on bad things, Native people are the highest on that. And when it comes to good things, we're the lowest. So the question is: How are we gonna change that?"

Undercover Racism

University of Guelph student Matthew Lauder researches racism from the inside

From The Ontario



Matt Lauder receives merit.

(CUP) Racist. The very word conjures a mental menagerie of grotesque caricatures. The steel-toed skinhead. The sieg-heiling neo-Nazi. The Southern sheeted Klan member. Inhuman creatures on the periphery of civilization.

But for University of Guelph student Matthew Lauder, racists are socially destructive, but they are people too.

"I think the most important thing to understand about these individuals is that they are human beings, but they're human beings who are operating from inside a dramatically different world view," he says.

And Lauder should know. For two years, he did his best to see that world view.

From 1999 until early 2001, Lauder infiltrated the organized racist movement in Canada. In a project code-named Anschluss Kanada, he adopted the guise of a converted racist in order to examine the movement as an insider. As he became a comrade to racists, he gathered information on their numbers, membership, gatherings, funding, cross-border activities, and recruitment strategies. He associated with such leading figures in the movement as Paul Fromm and Wolfgang Droege. He developed and maintained movement

Web-sites. He wrote and posted articles written from an extreme right-wing perspective. He publicly defended and supported bigots. He drove with them, drank with them, shook their hands and smiled. All the while, he was working for a cause that was antithetical to theirs.

Lauder's interest in anti-racism began when he was a teenager. The environment in which he was raised taught him to value diverse cultural backgrounds. "My parents tried to give me an understanding of respect for others... My friends as well. We just grew up in a community where there were differences, but we understood and respected those differences." When he was in high school, Lauder became aware of the Heritage Front, which was one of the more prominent racist organizations in Canada. "I was just very concerned about the impact it would have on our community and society in general," he says. He realized that he could not sit idly by while racist groups actively promoted their agenda. He became involved in anti-racist movement.

"It was then that the idea of covert research occurred to him. If he could convince the racists that their arguments had won him over, then he would become privy to the truth about them... All he had to do was become one of them."

Lauder's involvement continued into the academic world. As a psychology undergrad, he studied deviant behaviour, first in relation to religious cults. The

parallels he saw between cults and organized racism drew him back to studying the movement. For his master's degree, he did much research on the subject, but it was purely text-based. By the time he began his doctorate, the focus of his research had shifted to participant observation: he engaged in personal contact and interviews with members of the movement. After about a year, he decided that even this form of investigation was inadequate.

"What was going on was that they were giving me information they wanted me to have," he says, "I don't think it was very reflective of the movement itself. They were too self-conscious. They were too practiced in dealing with the media, and that's how they were treating me, as a media representative."

Lauder reached what he describes in his own writings as a breaking point. He became frustrated with the role of traditional researcher. He realized that as long as the movement saw him as an outsider, he would never really know how it worked, thus he would never know how to stop it. It was then that the idea of covert research occurred to him. If he could convince the racists that their arguments had won him over, then he would become privy to the truth about them. He would have access to information unavailable to any openly anti-racist activist. He would have the means to fight them more effectively. All he had to do was become one of them.

Such a task would not be easy. They already knew him as a researcher, as well as a left-leaning person with a socialist background. They didn't trust him. He would have to earn their trust.

"I had to allow the group to see me as a convert," he explains, "I had to get them to see I was buying their party line." He slowly built a rapport with key insiders, or entry points. He solidified his reputation by also associating with fringe dwellers, cover points. Lauder did not recruit anyone himself, but his cover

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points made it appear as if he was bringing others into the movement.

It was not simply a matter of pretending to be someone else. Some of the racists Lauder associated with had been involved in the movement for over a decade. They would see through a superficial pretense. Lauder had to create a sort of mental costume. Whenever he associated with the racists, he had to adopt a premeditated thought structure, one that would reflect a sympathetic belief system. "In a covert operation," he advises, "you really have to have a certain mindset, and you have to keep it consistent." Preparation before entering their company was essential.

Such preparation served Lauder well when his commitment to the movement was inevitably challenged. After the first year of infiltration, Lauder was publicly confronted in front of eight other members by Marc Lemire, an influential and articulate racist. But Lauder was ready for Lemire's precise line of attack. "I knew that situation was going to come up," he says, "I was psychologically prepared for his exact question." Lauder successfully turned the tables upon his interrogator, and Lemire left the scene flustered.

For all the racists' latent violence, Lauder was never forced to defend himself physically during his infiltration. Nor was he asked to participate in violence. As the infiltration progressed, he was groomed as a movement writer. His role was to incorporate a progressive approach into organized racism. He was commissioned to write articles and columns on acceptable political issues like free speech and immigration reform to promote the hidden agenda of racism, taking care with his language to avoid Canadian hate-speech laws. It was a part of his role not to be involved in violence or any other illegal activity.

Ironically, the one time Lauder almost got into a physical conflict was when he and a group of racists were confronted by angry anti-racist activists. Luckily, Lauder was able to deal with the situation without resorting to blows. In fact, the incident strengthened his position in the movement. "Violence

helps the far right," he explains, "It creates a sense of solidarity within the movement. They enjoy playing the victim."

Incidents such as this may have helped Lauder with his infiltration, but they also had the potential to further confuse his identity. As he devoted hours to the movement, both in writing and through information technology, there were moments when Lauder questioned himself about which cause he was working for. Avoiding an identity crisis required strict separation of his role as racist and his true intentions as anti-racist activist. "You have to maintain that discipline or the project itself is jeopardized," he warns, "It is very difficult."

Fortunately, Lauder did not have to be around racists at every waking moment. For most of his day-to-day life, he could be himself. But there was always the danger that he would be caught in situations he could not easily explain. What would he do if someone involved with the far right saw him with his Korean housemate? Or with a Kenyan friend? "Always in the back of your head, you have to think What will happen if I run into so-and-so? I always had to have contingency plans," he says.

By the end of the year 2000, the stress of the undercover operation was getting the better of Lauder. In his writing, he describes the entire project as "physically and psychologically draining." While he was gaining valuable information on the movement as well as insights into the racist mind, he increasingly felt "contaminated by their sense of hatred and xenophobia." It was time to end the project, as much for his own well-being as in accordance to his original plan. And while all his family and close friends knew of his work and supported him, he still felt that as long as he was involved in the far right, he was betraying his community. "I have Jewish relatives," he states, "I have family members who are gay... These are individuals which the movement considers not to have a right to live."

Earlier this year the infiltration was

fully exposed when a widely published article named him as director of the anti-racism program at the Guelph and District Multicultural Centre. The writer of the article had given him the choice of being named or remaining anonymous. Lauder chose the former to finally ensure the death of his racist persona.

For Lauder, the project was a success. But it was not without its costs. Lauder realizes that the organized racist movement now identifies him as an enemy and a target. He has been threatened both in person and through messages. He also admits that his ability to collect more information about the movement has been somewhat compromised. Further infiltration on his part is impossible now that he is publicly known as an anti-racist activist. He currently continues to work at the Guelph and District Multicultural Centre, as well as pursue his graduate studies. However, he feels that infiltration remains an important tool in fighting the far right.

"I think it's the only way to gain quality information on the racist movement, especially for nonprofit organizations," he maintains, "It's important for us to do our own information-gathering projects, and then share that with other agencies, because everybody has to know what's going on."

Of all the things Lauder learned during his immersion, he feels the most important is not what makes racists monstrous, but what makes them human. After spending so much time in their presence, Lauder came to the conclusion that in order for racists to seriously rethink their beliefs, something has to occur in their lives. Public scorn does not have the power of a significant personal experience. Demonizing racists will not encourage them to change. Turning them into comic book villains will not make them any easier to get rid of. "We have to keep in mind that they're humans, that they're people. They have feelings... They have to change from inside. They have to understand that what they're doing is not productive, they're being socially destructive."



Another Seventh Inning Retch (or why I hate baseball)



Patrick Witwicki
Sports Editor

"Major league baseball players have decided on a possible August strike date, because they are unhappy with negotiations so far." —Canadian newswire, May 15, 2002.

Right. So let me get this straight: exactly eight years after going on strike and cancelling the World Series in 1994, the players have decided to do it again? Baseball is an absolute mess right now. The only teams that can afford to pay their players and make the bottom line are in New York, and maybe California, and every year, we all know the Yankees will win the World Series (with the odd exception, like last year, thanks to a bloop single in the bottom of the ninth by Arizona). Before opening day, baseball fans in small markets like Milwaukee, Kansas City, and Pittsburgh know they have no hope in hell of making the playoffs.

Once upon a time, you could actually build a winning team. You could draft players, and

build from within, and finally, one day, you would have a team strong enough to compete every year for the playoffs. Well, in baseball, not anymore. 1994 was the final nail in any "building" team's coffin. Three words: the Montreal Expos. During the early 90s, they built their team into a contender, and were well on their way to possibly their first World Series berth in 1994, when the strike happened. And you all know how this story ended up.

Now, Montreal can barely compete, and they draw less fans on an average day than our Single A club here in Vancouver. More recently, Oakland tried similar tactics, and took New York to a fifth and deciding game in last year's playoffs. Oakland's reward? Those rich Yankees stole their best player, Jason Giambi to make their payroll higher than the Expos, Twins, Royals, and Devil Rays combined, and basically made Oakland take another step backward. Yes, Oakland still has great pitching, but don't worry—after this season, they will probably lose those pitchers to the Yankees, or maybe the Mets.

So, of course the owners want to change the bargaining agreement, otherwise, for 20 or so of the teams, remaining in the Major Leagues is a complete waste of time. And if you think surprising teams like Florida, Montreal, or Minnesota will still be in the hunt after the all-star break, think again. And can any of those teams dream of coming up with enough money to sign a free agent like Alex Rodriguez at the tune of \$25 million per season? Not a chance.

So, that's why I hate baseball. Never mind the fact that trying to watch a game is about as exciting as watching paint dry, being a baseball fan is a complete waste of time. How

do you think baseball fans in Kansas City feel, knowing they have no hope of making the playoffs, ever? The days of building around a player like George Brett are over. Nowadays, if you have a player like Brett on your squad, inevitably you're going to lose him to one of the New York teams, or a rich owner like the one in Texas. Basically, you build your team and develop your players who eventually will become free agents, and leave you in their dust. Baseball desperately needs a new contract that would give all teams a chance to at least compete, or keep their franchise players.

But the players don't care. They all know that if they keep the status quo, they will get ridiculous amounts of money to go play for a team in New York, or they may have to settle for Arizona or Los Angeles. They don't seem to realize that the majority of baseball owners won't stick around if things don't change. How does an eight team Major baseball league sound? Hm, that would mean over 300 players would be out of work. Maybe that is what we need. The players go on strike, piss off all the fans they still have from the last strike, and suddenly find themselves on the outside looking in when the league goes under.

Yeah, I know, this probably won't happen. Instead, we'll see a new version of the usual: the players will hold their collective gun to the heads of the owners, the owners will cave in, and the Yankees will keep on winning World Series by stealing players like Giambi away from the poorer teams. For this reason, I once again pledge my oath: I will never watch baseball, period. Instead, I'm looking forward to Team Canada representing us next year at the World Cricket Championship...

Mired in Mediocrity

WLA recap for May

Patrick Witwicki
Sports Editor

For the most part, the Western Lacrosse Association 2002 season has begun as predicted: Victoria keeps winning, North Shore keeps losing, and the New Westminster Salmonbellies continue to play with the expected inconsistency that plagued them during the 2001 campaign.

Case in point: the Salmonbellies opened their season with an impressive 14-10 victory over reigning Mann Cup Champions, the Coquitlam Adanacs. They also hammered the young Maple Ridge Burrards 19-12, but were beaten easily by Victoria and Burnaby.

However, perhaps the only surprise at the beginning of the season is the fact that Coquitlam is only at .500. The

Adanacs opened their season against Victoria, and despite a furious third period comeback to force overtime, they eventually lost 17-15. After this, they lost to New Westminster, and Adanac fans had to be wondering what had happened to their champions, especially since they had supposedly improved the team from one year ago. Since then, Coquitlam has rattled off two impressive victories over Burnaby and

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the North Shore, as well as struggling to a 16-16 tie against Maple Ridge.

Still, as the season progresses, pundits expect Coquitlam to challenge Victoria for 1st place, while New Westminster, if they can ever discover a consistent game, should overtake Burnaby for 3rd place. The Lakers have exploded out of the gate, winning 3 of their first 4, their only loss coming at the hands of the Adanacs.

New Westminster notes:

New Westminster's home opener was deemed a success, despite the disappointing crowd. Canada's World Cup Lacrosse team was announced at the game, including Salmonbellies, and Vancouver Raven stand-out, Peter Morgan. Once the game began, New Westminster dominated the defending champs from Coquitlam, holding the Adanacs to only one power play goal in the process. Morgan led the way, firing in six goals.

The following night, the Salmonbellies lost to the Burnaby Lakers 11-8. New Westminster continued their tradition of winning one, losing one, by hammering the Maple Ridge Burrards 19-12, before losing against the tough Victoria squad

18-14. Despite the setback, goaltender Matt Disher has helped New Westminster achieve the lowest goals against in the league for the month of May. Forward Craig Stevenson is 6th in scoring with 12 goals and 9 assists, while Morgan's frantic pace from the opener has tailed off, leaving him with 10 goals and 11 assists, good enough for seventh.

Coquitlam comments:

Teams are always out to get the reigning champs, and especially Victoria, who after going undefeated during the 2001 regular season, were upset in the WLA final by Coquitlam. So perhaps, during Coquitlam's home opener, Victoria was seeking revenge, and had jumped out to a 14-9 lead, with less than five minutes remaining in regulation. However, Coquitlam made a furious comeback, forcing overtime, before losing 17-15. The Adanacs then followed up this effort by losing to New Westminster, in a game that was basically decided after the second period.

Coquitlam has had no trouble in scoring goals, with John Grant Jr. 2nd in scoring with 11 goals and 19 assists, and Dan Stroup close behind him with 15 goals



and 9 assists. However, their goaltending has definitely been a problem, although, since their two opening losses, they seem to have righted the ship, beating Burnaby 12-4 and struggling past last place North Shore, 11-9. But, they are confident that once they get over that "championship hangover," everything will be fine.

Under Suspension... or Bad Officiating?

Patrick Witwicksi
Sports Editor

On Friday, May 11, during the Ottawa-Toronto playoff series, an incident occurred that once again spawned controversy over preferential treatment for stars. The score was tied at two, and Ottawa Captain, Daniel Alfredsson was racing Darcy Tucker for the puck in the Toronto zone. He bumped Tucker, who ended up crashing into the boards, injuring his shoulder. While he lay on the ice, writhing in pain, Alfredsson proceeded to score the winning goal. No penalty, and Ottawa went on to win the game. Tucker ended up injured for the remainder of the series, and possibly the playoffs.

The recourse? Well, true, the Leafs eventually won the series, so it's no longer an issue, but at the time of the incident? No suspension for Alfredsson, of course. Dave Newell, supervisor of offi-

cials for that series, was quoted in a statement as saying, "The hit was from the side, and was not an attempt to injure." Indeed, every replay angle of the incident offers various evidence. From one angle, it looks like a shoulder-to-shoulder check, with Tucker simply losing control of his balance. From another, it definitely looks like a dirty check from behind. More than likely, the referees were at a particular angle to the play that made it look like a legal check. And the NHL, not wanting to admit that the referees were wrong, couldn't even consider a suspension. By suspending Alfredsson, they would be admitting that there should have been a penalty, and that the goal shouldn't have counted.

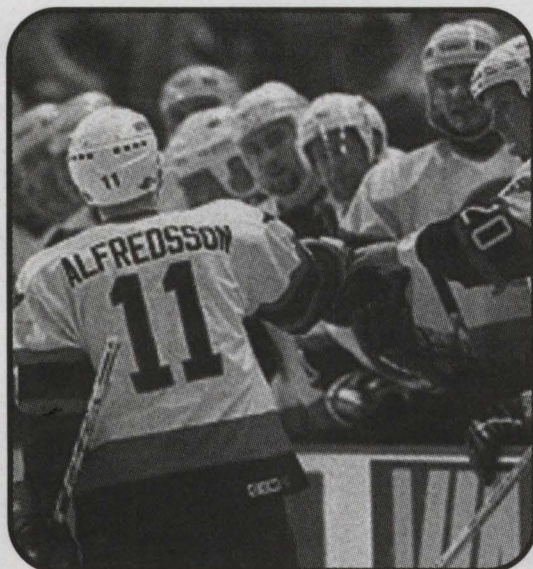
But therein lies the argument. Had it been the other way around, and had Tucker thrown the hit on Alfredsson, a suspension probably would have followed. A penalty? Well, it is a known fact that the

referees try to protect the so-called star players. And anyone who disagrees, well I just have two words for you: remember Gretzky. Yes, Toronto fans have seen this film before, and it occurred in the 1993 Conference Finals. Gretzky was protected by the referees, and eventually, it paid dividends in controversial penalties to Toronto and "non-calls" to LA in both Games 6 and 7. And let's face it: if someone like Tie Domi or Donald Brashear throws a hit like Alfredsson did, it's a suspension, no questions asked. But when Sundin or Alfredsson do it, the NHL ignores it, wanting to protect the stars.

And remember, it's not just hockey that follows this belief. If you even sneeze at Shaq or Kobe during the NBA playoffs, they're going to be standing at the free-throw line. And in baseball, the strike zone is just a little bigger for ace pitchers like Pedro Martinez, and smaller when studs like Mark Maguire or Barry Bonds

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are at the plate. But with hockey, due to the nature of the sport, the problem of preferential treatment is much more evident. After all, how often do you see Pedro throwing a big elbow into a Yankee's face, or see Kobe hammer someone from behind? But in hockey, to win in the playoffs, you have to be tough, even if you are a so-called star player. Alfredsson, as the Ottawa Captain, wanted to win that game, and in doing so, he may have thrown an illegal check before scoring the winning goal.

Alfredsson, however, did not try to injure Tucker on purpose. From most replays, it appeared as though Tucker was off-balance, and apparently his shoulder was already hurting from a hit earlier in the game. Suspending someone for accidentally hurting an opponent is ludicrous, and those over-zealous Maple Leaf fans who were crying for Alfredsson's head should check their faces in the mirror. Infractions like Carolina's Jeff O'Neill's spear on Montreal's Saku Koivu in Game 4 of their series, on the other hand, are what the NHL should be suspending players for. No matter who you are, if you purposely hurt someone, you should pay for it, even if your name is "Wayne"... or "Daniel."

Soccer

Season Finale

Malminderjit Singh
OP Contributor

It seems like it was just a few years ago when opposing team's fans jeered Arsenal and their distinct brand of negative soccer. The chants of "Boring, boring Arsenal" were the only highlights of a typically defensive Arsenal performance.

How things have changed. The English Premier League 2001-02 has found a new dominant force. A force once criticized for their typically dull, defensive tactics, this "boring" team is now one of the most exciting teams in the league and perhaps the most creative. Here is the new Arsenal—the Arsenal that has just been crowned as champions of English soccer as well as adding the FA Cup Trophy to their silverware.

Indeed, Arsenal's double winning performances have been breathtaking at times this season. It is no wonder that their season tally of 79 goals is the second highest in the league and second only to the boys from Manchester.

The crowning moment for the Gunners came on May 8 when they defeated bitter enemies and title rivals Manchester United 1-0. Sylvian Wiltord, who has a knack of scoring important and decisive goals, did it again as he sunk the entire Old Trafford into

bitter silence.

As a matter of fact, Arsenal could also thank another title rival for falling at the last hurdle and leaving the championship up for grabs. Liverpool seemed certain at one stage to bring the title back to Anfield for the first time since the Premiership had been inaugurated. However, injuries coupled with inconsistency formed the Reds biggest obstacle as they allowed the Championship title to slip from

"What is certain is that Arsenal has emerged as the new force in English Soccer and broken the monopoly of Manchester United."

their grasps. Nevertheless, their emphatic finish of 2nd in the league resulted in automatic qualification for the lucrative Champions League, and also promises greater things from them next season on the domestic front.

Manchester United had to settle for 3rd spot in the end, their worst performance in the league thus far. To rub salt into their wounds, the Red Devils have to go through the qualifying phase for next season's Champions League. The only bright spark in United's disappointing season was the debut performance of Dutch striker Ruud Van Nistelrooy. The lanky Dutchman was in outstanding form

chalking up 23 goals, one short of top scorers Thierry Henry and Alan Shearer. Van Nistelrooy also received the English League Player of the Year Award, an accolade for his consistent performances.

Another player who was in superb form this season was Arsenal's French winger, Robert Pires. Pires turned in an electric show this season, scoring some awesome goals along the way. To put icing on the cake, Pires finished the season with a championship medal, FA Cup Medal and a Players' Player of the Year Award. All this from an athlete who last season was written off by the press as overrated. Arsenal had most of their players in outstanding form this season, a factor that contributed significantly to their success. Ashley Cole, Sol Campbell, Patrick Vieira, Fredrik Ljungberg, Thierry Henry, Dennis Bergkamp and Pires were all inspirational in Arsenal's double success. Whether these players will translate this form into success for their respective countries this summer at the World Cup Finals remains to be seen.

What is certain is that Arsenal has emerged as the new force in English Soccer and broken the monopoly of Manchester United. As I predicted and reported earlier in the season, Alex Ferguson's Red Devils are noticing that their stranglehold on the Premiership is loosening. Believe it or not, this is the beginning of the end of the Manchester United era.

THE ORACLE

The Language of Astrology

Who am I? This is the eternal question which inevitably prompts a series of other inquiries. The answer is subjective, for each person's temperament, emotions, mind and body are unique. What we focus on is what we manifest. Who we are versus who we want to be—our realities will reflect this focus.

Mercury is a symbol of duality—the two sides of the same coin, light or dark, being open minded is about considering the duality of reality; this can free each individual, relieving stress and tension. Who is there to fight, argue with, or even win over, when we know the argument is with ourselves? Let this question fill your being, allow it to consume your

mind and heart, this is the journey of the great work. The greatest relationship you will ever have is with yourself.

Mercury is the quickest planet in our solar system, taking approximately 88 days to revolve around the Sun. This orbital efficiency is related to why Mercury reflects communication, writing, working with the hands, details, listening, learning—the list goes on and on.

Essentially we can all think, contemplate, meditate, pray and communicate. Choose how you do so with wisdom, which is still subjective. What you think about, and how you approach this task will shape and form your reality.

Aries

Pay more attention to what matters to you. Your emotions may run high, but make adjustments to your domestic life. Now is the time to build a solid emotional and family foundation, and transform frustration into positive opportunities. June 15 to July 10 is a window of exceptional passion, let your romantic side shine.

Taurus

Love and do what you love; this will bring the greatest security to you. This is also the chance to express your beauty, & explore your many creative talents. Home is the place to find and refocus your energies for the inspiration. Your enjoyment lies in a stable emotional domestic environment. Stay home and have a dinner party.

Gemini

It is time to speak your mind. Gemini's are known for bringing fresh perspectives to a conversation. This is a great time to develop your ideas. Write down all your thoughts; they will help you later. And by the way, love is in the air this month.

Cancer

You'll have a lot of drive from June 15–July 14. Buy a lottery ticket, make some great deals, if you dare. The planet Jupiter (ruling expansion, luck, and optimism) will bring peace into your life now. Make an emotional/mental picture to remember for the future. This alignment will only happen again in 12 years. Harvest the seeds you have planted. HAPPY BIRTHDAY and many blessings.

Leo

Another month to go before your party. Have you planned a big one yet? Keep on flowing, keep on shining bright, keep on loving life, let your self relax and have fun. Your greatest event is here—summer. Allow simplicity to guide your way, and love will join you on the journey.

Virgo

Thank the stars that some of the stress and tension is gone; but there are still a few chal-



lenges. You've gone through the tough stuff and have become better for it. Remember to be clear with your communications and hold off on pushing yourself so hard. On the other hand, you need to get motivated. All the doors are open, which one to choose—and choose you must.

Libra

This month, watch your emotions with those close to you. Watch your sensitivity. The great thing about Libra is your ability to balance and restore harmony. This is your month for action. If you have been planning something, now is the time to set the ideas in motion. Be aware that your ideas might be challenged. You will see the fruits in about three months.

Scorpio

The love gate is open to you, which is what the sign Scorpio is about. How will you direct the energy of love this month? There are still plenty of personal changes you can make; your insights can help a lot of people, if you choose. Move towards your goals, but be mindful that the

zodiac month of Leo will test the ideas you have now. Use this month to create a solid fortification, remember the story of the three pigs. Build well.

Sagittarius

What you are going through only happens every 29 years. Trust that your plans and goals are sound, keep up the good work. I can only offer words of encouragement and tell you that if you choose to make changes this is the time, but remember to get a lot of rest, release some stress, watch your health and conserve your energy.

Capricorn

Cool Capricorn, down to earth and practical, focused on your goal. The full moon on June 24 will offer you a chance to get in touch with some powerful emotions. Choose a goal for this day, your intention will manifest. Let feelings move through you rather than holding on to them. It's an art you'll master in time.

Aquarius

Are you listening to your dreams and thoughts? Are you writing them down? What do you want? Now is a great time to answer some questions you have about life. Write a list of what you would like, emotionally, mentally and physically. By doing this your Aquarian enthusiasm will inspire others to do the same.

Pisces

Work, work, work. Communication is still on the forefront, choose your words well. Great inspiration is filling your life. Step out and accept the honor of being loved. Allow your soul to be filled with the happiness of knowing that you are doing well. Every breath makes you stronger. Praise the building blocks of life. Praise yourself.

Recommended book of the month
Mind Power the Secret of Mental Magic, by William Atkinson

Published by Yogi Publication Society
Please send your comments to schoolofthoth@yahoo.com